

Pressure grows for hostage release

## McCarthy and Keenan alive, but in chains

By Staff Reporters

CAMPAIGNERS for the release of the four British hostages being held in Lebanon are increasing pressure on the Government to step up its efforts on their behalf after learning yesterday that two of the captives are alive.

Families and friends of Mr John McCarthy and Mr Brian Keenan were overjoyed after hearing confirmation that the two men kidnapped in Beirut in April 1986 were well. Mr Frank Reed, the American released on Monday, said he had had a long conversation with them on Saturday.

Mr Reed shouted the news from the balcony of the German hospital where he is being treated and debriefed, after telephoning both families yesterday. He told Mr McCarthy's friend Miss Jill Morell that the hostages were being held blindfolded and chained to radiators most of the time, but that Mr McCarthy was keeping fit doing press-ups and squat-thrusts.

Hopes of securing their early release received an immediate setback, however, when the Home Office announced the deportation of and Iranian student held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The Iranian news agency INRA said the move showed Britain's hostility, adding: "Ironically, London has repeatedly asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to help to secure release of British hostages in Lebanon."

Senior British Government

sources hailed the information given by Mr Reed as "enormously helpful and encouraging", but reaffirmed that the Government would not do any deals to free the hostages. No special diplomatic initiative was planned, although the Foreign Office is sending an official to Wiesbaden to take part in Mr Reed's debriefing.

Miss Morell yesterday demanded that the Government drop its refusal to talk to Iran and Syria, who played a key role in the release of two American hostages in the past two weeks. "It shows that if you do talk to the Syrians and do discuss things with the Iranians you can get somewhere," she said. President Bush has thanked both countries for their help, making it more difficult for London to continue insisting on preconditions for talks.

Mr Chris Pearson, president of the Friends of John McCarthy, said: "It is now up to the Foreign Office to go hell for leather. Let's get the hostages out."

The Government is also coming under pressure in Westminster, where Sir David Steel, the Liberal Democrats' foreign affairs spokesman, said Britain should do more to associate itself with American efforts and seek the resumption of diplomatic relations with those countries that could help. Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Foreign Secretary, called for "clear reassurance that the Government is taking active steps which will result in the release of the British hostages".

Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, welcomed the news that Mr Keenan — who holds dual British and Irish nationality — was alive, and said that he had met the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Velayati last week. Dr Velayati had hopes of securing Mr Keenan's early release, but Mr Collins would not speculate on a definition of "early".

Mr Reed said he knew nothing about the fate of the other two British hostages, Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, or Mr Jack Mann, a retired pilot. He had spent nearly two years with the Americans Mr Terry Anderson and Mr Tom Sutherland, but had not seen them for some time. He had assumed they had been freed and said he was angry and embarrassed to be released before them.

Mr Reed's wife, Fifi, said her husband had described how sometimes up to six hostages were together at the same time, while at other times they were kept on their

### Mugger snatches a 'worthless' £290m

By David Sapsted

A ROBBER snatched a briefcase containing more than £290 million in negotiable bonds from a City of London messenger in what is believed to be a world record for a mugging. But the mugger stands to make not a penny.

Within an hour of the attack, the Bank of England flashed a warning on the City's market dealing screens detailing the stolen documents. The mugger, in his late twenties and dressed in a brown leather bomber-jacket, at-

tacked a messenger from Sheppards moneybrokers at about 9.30 am yesterday in Nicholas Lane, a quiet side-street off Cannon Street.

The man held a knife to the messenger's throat and demanded money, before running off with his briefcase. In it were certificates of deposit valued at £121.9 million and Treasury bills worth £170 million. Last night police appealed for witnesses.

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### Bills scandal

Overcharging by gas, water, electricity and telephone utilities is costing businesses, local health authorities, councils and government departments many millions of pounds a year in excessive bills, experts say..... Page 2

Virgin slander

A Pakistani bride whose husband said she was not a virgin at marriage won £20,000 damages in the High Court in London under a rarely invoked 19th century statute..... Page 22

### Green housing

Tests on a unique design that will provide solar space and water heating for a house even in Britain's minimal exposure to sunlight, are about to take place. The system could play a large role in countering the greenhouse effect..... Page 33

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Mr Takeshita: Handout will help his ambitions

From Joe Joseph  
Tokyo

THEY do things a little differently in Japan. As Mrs Thatcher braces for a national backlash against the poll tax in today's local elections, ratepayers here are busy working out how to squander billions of yen foisted on them by the Liberal Democratic Government.

The only proviso they have been given is not to spend it too seriously. Forget new town halls or more efficient sewers, they were told. Be imaginative.

Japan's local governments and village elders have taken the Government at its word. One backwater in Yamanashi, central Japan, is going to invite 3,000 residents to view their village from a helicopter. Another, in Miyagi, northern Japan, wants to build the country's biggest water wheel. The world's largest gold bar has been forged. The world's

biggest hourglass, holding one tonne of sand, is on order. Japan's biggest wisteria trellis is being lashed together. Rate-capping is not a concept much mentioned.

The scheme was the brainchild of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the former Prime Minister who stepped down last year over his links to the Recruit scandal. The common practice of keeping the voters sweet has resulted in glamorous concert halls for grim villages and passengerless bullet trains for remote rural havens. Such cultivation of constituents has helped to keep the Liberal Democrats in power for 35 years.

Mr Takeshita's parting gesture before handing over the reins of power was to offer every city, town and village across the country 100 million yen (£384,615) each to squander as they saw fit. There are 3,268 such local administrations.

The aim was to revitalise regional areas, but critics say giving 100 million yen to every local body, however small, is throwing money away.

Awashimaura-mura, a village in the rice-growing district of Niigata, is financing a poster campaign to promote the village, and hopes the publicity will lure potential wives for lonely farmers.

Two local authorities are putting fax machines in every villager's home to speed up delivery of neighbourhood announcements. Hakui, a small town on the Japan Sea coast, is building a museum shaped like a flying saucer. It says it wants to become "Japan's UFO mecca".

The generous handout will do no harm to Mr Takeshita's ambitions. Still Japan's most powerful politician, he has made it known that he would not mind being Prime Minister again.



Hopeful beginnings: President de Klerk and Mr Mandela before their talks at a mansion in suburban Cape Town

## Mandela to meet Thatcher on July 4

By Michael Kainje  
Diplomatic Correspondent

AS THE African National Congress began its first formal talks with the South African Government yesterday, it was announced that Mr Nelson Mandela, the organization's deputy president, has at last agreed to talk to Mrs Thatcher.

There was a mood of cautious hope as the Pretoria and ANC teams gathered in Cape Town for talks aimed at resolving the barriers to the destruction of apartheid.

Mrs Thatcher's meeting with Mr Mandela will be at Downing Street on July 4, the Prime Minister's office confirmed yesterday. He will arrive in Britain on July 3, and will also have talks with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. Before coming to Britain he will have discussions with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, in Dublin.

The ANC leader's visit will be his second to Britain since his release from 27 years imprisonment on February 11, but it will be the first time he has formal discussions with the Government. He met Mr Hurd briefly and informally at a dinner in Windhoek in March during the Namibian independence celebrations.

But then, and again when he visited London at Easter to attend a rock concert celebrating his release, he had no contacts with British officials, despite the Government's clear readiness for a meeting.

Mr Mandela's refusal to meet Mrs Thatcher was meant as a rebuke over her opposition to increased sanctions against South Africa and her speedy decision unilaterally to lift some of the modest British measures against Pretoria.

The Prime Minister pressed for Mr Mandela's release, and said she would not visit South Africa until he was free.

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## Soviet call for treaty to end war 'a ploy'

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

THE Soviet Union is to call for a formal peace treaty to end the Second World War when the two Germanies and the four wartime Allies hold their first meeting at ministerial level on Saturday in Bonn.

The demand will be opposed by the other five countries, which see it as impractical because up to 57 countries could, in theory, demand to be involved in peace talks.

The Western Allies hope Moscow will eventually back down, but fear it could cause a serious delay in the talks, which Bonn is anxious to complete quickly. The West German coalition's prospects in the December federal elections are thought to depend partly on sustaining a rapid pace towards reunification.

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A linkage between the different strands of Soviet policy was hinted at by the Soviet delegation at a preparatory meeting of the "two plus four talks" in East Berlin on Monday. The Soviet delegation tried to introduce two new

items in the agenda for Saturday's meeting in Bonn. It called the first of these "the synchronization of German unity with the all-European process". The second would deal with Germany's "international obligations".

Moscow's demand appears to be part of a Soviet tactic to slow down the talks, reflecting fears that German reunification is rushing ahead out of control. But Moscow also appears to have a wider strategy. It is probably no coincidence that it has introduced complications in two sets of arms control talks, on conventional arms and on an "open skies" treaty.

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# Bloc Buster.

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## Cautious Labour 'happy with 200 gains'

By Robin Oakley  
Political Editor

CONSERVATIVES could end up holding fewer than a fifth of the 5,327 seats at stake in today's local elections if opinion poll trends are reflected in voting.

There have been predictions of the loss of 600 seats from an already low base and if the key London boroughs of Westminster and Wandsworth and the northern city of Bradford, all key examples of Thatcherite policies in action, fall to Labour, the pressure on Mrs Thatcher's leadership will intensify, with bad inflation figures on the way next week.

But yesterday Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, said that the two London boroughs, which have the lowest poll tax at £195 and £148 respectively, would both remain Conservative.

An NOP poll in Westminster, for the London Evening Standard, showed Conservatives at 42 per cent and Labour 48 per cent, compared with voting at the last borough elections in 1986 of Tories 42.5 per cent and Labour 38.7. In Wandsworth the figures were Conservatives 45 per cent and Labour 48 per cent, compared with 44.7 per cent and 43.4 in 1986.

Conservative Central Office has grown optimistic in the past few days that the nationwide damage may not be as bad as once expected. Labour was cautious. Dr Jack Cunningham, the party's campaign co-ordinator, refused to predict success for his party in either Westminster or Wandsworth, saying that both contests were too close to call.

He said he would be delighted if Labour managed 200 gains overall, despite his belief that the poll tax controversy would considerably increase turnout, as it had in recent local government by-elections consistently won by them.

Labour, which has sought to make the council election campaign a national referendum on Mrs Thatcher and her policies, as well as a verdict on the popularity of the poll tax, yesterday accused the Prime Minister of ducking the contest.

Mr Neil Kinnock said that she had been unusually coy during a contest which was the first national verdict on the poll tax. Dr Cunningham said that the Prime Minister had been "conspicuous by her absence".

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# Overcharging by utilities 'burdens business and public services'

By Nick Nattall  
Technology Correspondent

**WIDESPREAD** overcharging by gas, water, electricity and telephone utilities is costing businesses, local health authorities, councils and government departments many millions of pounds a year in excessive bills, it is being claimed.

Some are paying for more units or calls than have been used because of accounting and computing errors. Others, eligible for cheaper tariffs, are being billed at higher rates because of administrative oversights and an unwillingness to make customers aware that they qualify.

Industry experts say that there are indications that privatization has aggra-

vated the scale of the problem as area offices attempt to implement new pricing policies and regulations, wider ranges of services and more varied ways of customer billing.

Last week, the Telecommunications Managers' Association disclosed that nearly 90 per cent of companies questioned said that they had been overcharged during the previous year by British Telecom.

The findings emerge from an analysis by the Inenco Group, a company specializing in utility debt recovery, which numbers many big organizations among its 3,500 clients, including brewers, publishers, health authorities and DIY chains.

Mr Phil McVan, Inenco's general

manager, said that over the past 12 months £1.2 million of the £6 million recovered for clients was for direct overcharging. Generally, the cases involved customers being billed for more calls or units than they had used.

Of the £1.2 million recovered, £800,000 came from telephone bills and £400,000 from water and energy-related bills.

Mr McVan said: "In water, charges are raised by water companies and also by water authorities in isolation. Because the administrative systems are not so smart, errors can occur."

There are also cases where customers have meters that calculate in old imperial units, whereas the central meters at the utility are metric. That,

too, can lead to excessive and inaccurate bills, the firm has found.

Five years ago, Inenco was recovering an annual average of £1,000 a client for overcharging, said Mr McVan, but this had grown to £5,000 a year. He said that with telephone accounts, debt recovery growth had been "phenomenal", with recovery rising 490 per cent over the five years since privatization.

The problem can also affect private telephone bills. Yesterday, it emerged that Maureen Lipman, who plays Beatie in BT's television commercials, was overcharged and threatened with being cut off on her car telephone bill after what the company admitted was a computing error.

The remaining 80 per cent of debt

recovery by Inenco on behalf of utility customers comes from so-called "grey areas", including cases where clients have been charged at high rates when they were eligible for lower tariffs.

Mr McVan said: "The utilities tell us that the customer is responsible for his choice. In our view, if there is choice, and one rate is cheaper than another, this is an overcharge."

Even when utilities decide that it is in their interests to tell customers of discounts, administrative errors could occur. Over the past few days, several clients with potential electricity rebates of between £5,000 and £40,000 have been identified. In the run-up to privatization, area electricity boards have been competing to keep some

business customers by offering reductions. However, poor record-keeping has led to some of these customers being overlooked, according to Mr McVan.

Inenco says that organizations that once rubber-stamped bills are now consulting recovery firms, with health authorities, wishing to conserve funds for patient care, referring accounts.

A spokesman for BT said that, given the accuracy of its call-charging equipment, bill errors were rare. If there had been growth in debt recovery on telephone bills, the mistakes were probably due to installation errors. It was rapid growth in telecommunications and re-organizations in the City of London that had made it difficult to keep records up to date, rather than privatization.

## Civil Service staff 'told to smash police by Militant'

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

**MINISTERS** are studying a document backed by supporters of the Militant Tendency that exhorted union members to attend the March 31 anti-poll tax demonstration and "smash Thatcher and her police force".

Mr Tommey Sheridan and Mr Steve Nally, Militant members and leaders of the Anti-Poll Tax Federation, have publicly condemned the violence, looting and burning that took place as police battled with rioters in the West End of London.

The document, which ministers now have in their possession, shows that members of Britain's biggest civil service union were exhorted to attend the demonstration and urged to support a campaign

### No new law to fight class thugs

Teachers will not get legal backing to sue the parents of young classroom thugs, it was announced yesterday.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, in a parliamentary answer, ruled out making parents responsible in civil law for children who attack teachers or vandalize classrooms. Legal backing for teachers' authority was also dismissed.

Teaching unions criticized the move, saying teachers needed more support to combat classroom violence.

The decisions came after the inquiry into school discipline headed by Lord Elton which last year urged the Government to explore possible legislation. There was concern that criminal law does not cover children under 10.

### Bomber crash

An American F-111 fighter-bomber aircraft from Lakenheath, Suffolk, crashed close to the Norfolk village of Binham yesterday, showering houses with wreckage. No one was hurt and the two men man ejected safely.

### Killer detained

Kevin Doherty, aged 13, who stabbed another boy to death, was yesterday ordered by Lord Allanbrook, at the High Court in Edinburgh, to be detained for five years. Doherty, of Blantyre, Lanarkshire, was found guilty at the High Court in Airdrie of the culpable homicide of Stuart Thomson, also 13.

### Bomb victim

A civilian fitter employed by the Ministry of Defence is believed to have lost both legs yesterday when a booby-trapped bomb exploded beneath the Territorial Army vehicle he was driving in Lisburn, Co Antrim. The mechanic is critically ill in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

### Pay warning

The Association of First Division Civil Servants presented a pay claim yesterday of 12 per cent for junior entrants to the "fast stream".

The union said the Civil Service faced a deepening recruitment crisis unless graduate entrants were paid salaries comparable to those in the private sector.

of mass non-payment of the community charge. The document, circulated to branches of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), also instructs union members to refuse to carry out their statutory duties in implementing poll tax legislation.

Leaders of the 150,000 strong union, which represents mainly lower paid workers, are convinced the document, in contravention of the law does not bear a publisher's name, is part of a hard-left campaign to re-capture control of the national executive committee.

Militant Tendency regards the union as the "jewel in the crown" of its influence in the trade union movement; it is working to regain control in the elections for the executive that are under way at present. At least 15 of the 26 Broad Left candidates standing in the election are Militant supporters and others have hard-left views unwelcome in the Labour Party.

Mrs Marion Chambers, the union's moderate president, said: "If Militants get control of this union again, the Government can look forward to further political warfare." The union's present leadership is opposed to the poll tax, but is unwilling to sanction any action that is unlawful.

Two years ago, when Militant was in control of the union, it exhorted industrial action within government departments and gave effective political control to Mr John Macreadie, a Militant supporter, by appointing him to the General Council of the Trade Union Congress, where, on at least one occasion, he called for a general strike.

The pamphlet demands that the national executive committee give "full support to a campaign of mass non-payment and organize members to stop deductions from benefits". It says: "CPSA members along with the rest of the trade union movement, can play a vital role in defeating the poll tax. Our union leaders should be leading the campaign for mass non-payment. Such a call would find a tremendous echo amongst the members."

In his election address, Mr Chris Baugh, one of the candidates for a seat on the executive, says: "I am a Labour Party member associated with Militant and support the campaign for mass non-payment of the poll tax. Opponents and the press will misrepresent my policies. I ask you to judge me by my record and vote for change."

There has been an internecine war between the hard left and moderates in the union. Mr John Ellis, the union's moderate general secretary, remains the only leader of a large union who does not have a "company car". It was taken away from him when the hard left were in control.

More recently, Militant members in the union's key Department of Health and Social Security office in Newcastle upon Tyne were expelled after a tribunal report found them "guilty" of using the union's resources to produce Broad Left material.

Poll tax squabble, page 4



Comrades' farewell: A poster celebrating the departure from Hungary of the KGB along with Russian forces comes under surveillance at an exhibition of political posters from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union which opened yesterday at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

## Piracy law would halt decoder use

By John Lewis, Political Staff

A PIRACY law to stop viewers using decoders to pick up films and other satellite broadcasts from abroad without paying for them is being drawn up by the Government.

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## Spencer vision sold for £1.3m

By John Shaw

STANLEY Spencer's prices reached new heights yesterday as a Crucifixion scene set in Cookham High Street, Berkshire, made £1.320,000 at Sotheby's in London.

It was a new record for the artist whose visionary pictures have been increasingly sought at auction. The painting, appearing on the market for the first time, was the top lot in a modern British picture sale which made £3,583,635 (17 per cent unsold).

The study was commissioned from Spencer for the chapel at Aldenham School, Hertfordshire. It was bought by Mr Ivor Braka, a London dealer. He said: "I think this particular picture is one of the most dramatic post-war paintings produced in England."

A celebrated love affair between Sir William Orpen and Yvonne Aubicq, daughter of the Mayor of Lille, who met while an official war artist in 1917, was recalled in a sensuous nude, "Early Morning", which made another artist's record of £319,000 (£100,000-150,000).

It showed her sitting cross-legged on the floor. Orpen passed off his two earliest pictures of her as portraits of a German spy in order to justify them to the War Office. She acquired overnight fame even after the truth emerged that she was the artist's mistress.

There were seven other artist's records in the sale, including those for Roderic O'Connor (£143,000); Sickert (£77,000); William Roberts (£82,500); and Jack Butler Yeats (£77,000).

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case, who wish to oppose their circumstances."

However, for many Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi women living in Britain accusations of a pre-marital relationship can still bring shame upon them and cast a shadow over the social standing of their families. Caught uncomfortably between two cultures, many have to measure new social expectations against values which, in European terms, can seem decidedly archaic.

"Many Asian women here are still fundamentally oppressed," Mrs Sudarshan Abrol, who runs an advice centre in Birmingham for Asian women, said. "But there is a

great culture clash for them when they live in a society in which sex is promoted everywhere." She added: "The girls are so protected at home — going to single sex schools and often being forbidden to go out by themselves — that most never have anything to do with boys before they are married. But if the girl gets pregnant before marriage, there's no pardon for it and it's a social stigma that leads many girls to run away from home. It's a very stressful situation."

Although such religious constraints are multi-denominational, the rigour with which they are imposed varies from each community, albeit Hindu, Muslim or Sikh.

Mrs Habrol, who is 50, emigrated to a Birmingham from the Punjab in 1963. Since then she has found many women in her area, which is predominantly Sikh, are under strong pressure to conform to traditions of arranged marriages.

A fixed dowry must be paid to the groom's parents, fundamental importance is attached to the virginity of wives and marriage outside one's caste or religion is frowned upon. When the men have an affair with an English woman, no-one condemns it. But if a woman goes out with another, she is condemned and she is in disgrace. The man cannot be proved to be a virgin, but the

woman has to be. "I have at least two girls coming into my office every day because of problems with their arranged marriage or with domestic violence."

However, Mrs Tari Kothari, a founding member of the UK Asian Women's Conference, said that attitudes to exogamy were more flexible in her own Hindu community in north London. "My family is from the Gujarat region of India, in my part of the world there is not much pressure on the girl. If she wanted to marry an outsider we would let her, but it would still be very poorly thought of if she had a pre-marital relationship."

One of Mrs Kothari's daughters

has married an Englishman and been through a British university, but she is still conscious that the pressures upon those from other Asian communities, especially Muslim. She described attitudes among many Muslim families from Pakistan, as "fanatical".

Another woman who runs a refuge for Asian girls in Birmingham said the problem lay in their economic reliance upon their families. "Most Asian women rely on society and their family, but when they are economically free they will begin to stand up for their rights. This case will encourage them. We are trying to give them the confidence to do this."

## BRITISH HOSTAGES

### McCarthy fit and well freed captive says

By David Sapsford

A TELEPHONE call shortly before 10am yesterday gave the Friends of John McCarthy in London the news that they had waited four years to hear.

The caller, from a United States base in Wiesbaden, West Germany, was Mr Frank Reed, released by his Lebanese captors barely 48 hours earlier. His message was simple: he had seen Mr John McCarthy and Mr Brian Keenan alive and reasonably well last Saturday.

Ms Joan Willows, one of the campaigners staffing the office at the headquarters of the National Union of Journalists, said: "We have had a few false reports in the last few years but this was an astonishing experience to be in an office and receive the first positive news that John is alive."

"Mr Reed said he saw the

two men last Saturday night. They seem to have been held together for a long time. John has grown a beard. He does loads of exercises every day — squat thrusts and push-ups and he reads a lot.

As far as his captors could be they are quite good. He is not being tortured though he has, apparently, had some minor health problems," she said.

Later, Mr Reed spoke to Mr Patrick McCarthy, John's father, and Miss Jill Morell, his long-time friend and journalistic colleague.

Miss Morell, who has led the campaign for Mr McCarthy's release, said: "It is absolutely fantastic — it's the best news we have had. I can hardly believe it. I don't quite know what to do about it."

Mr Reed told her Mr McCarthy was being kept blind-

folded most of the time. "He said John was in good health and good spirits and as well as can be expected really. He said John is taking advantage of the time they get to exercise in the mornings and keeps himself fit," she said.

"He had seen John as recently as a few days ago, and had been with him for quite a long time. John was in good health and good spirits. This is the first strong news we have had of him.

Mr Patrick McCarthy said after his conversation with Mr Reed that he was now cautiously optimistic that his journalist son, taken hostage four years ago, would eventually be released.

"This is the only first-hand news we have ever had of John," Mr McCarthy, of Corinth Hall End, near Saffron Walden, Essex, said.

precaution of following backstreets and avoiding the main routes leading to the airport where he might get recognized as a foreigner at one of the many checkpoints.

He had been travelling only a few minutes, however, when the car was intercepted outside the ruins of the old Spinneys supermarket. Someone with a walkie-talkie had witnessed Mr McCarthy's last act of kindness and his preparations to leave and tipped off the accomplices.

It is suspected that the men who pointed their automatic rifles at him and hustled him into the car were freelancers who planned to resell Mr McCarthy to his present captors, believed to be Iranian-backed Shia Muslims.

## Irishman safe who forgot passport

MR BRIAN KEENAN, a Protestant from Dundonald, had joked before he set off for his English teaching job in Beirut that he was leaving one sectarian war to enter another (Nicholas Beeston writes).

Within days of his arrival his boyish smile was a familiar sight at the militia chiefs' press conferences as well as the restaurants and bars frequented by the shrinking foreign press corps.

Like most newcomers to Lebanon, Mr McCarthy found himself seduced by its beauty, the hospitality of its people and the excitement of covering the war. He telephoned his parents that Beirut was not the horror story he had read about before the trip, but a surprisingly normal city and occasionally "quite monotonous".

What neither he nor the other British journalists could foresee was the very real

# Secrecy at police hearings criticized

By Stewart Teadler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE disciplinary hearings are surrounded by too much secrecy, leaving complainants and the public unaware of the punishment meted out to erring officers, the Police Complaints Authority said yesterday.

A complainant may be allowed to give evidence to a hearing but will be excluded once a finding of guilty or innocence has been found. The authority, in its report for 1989, noted: "As a result of the process gives the appearance of being shrouded in mystery which detracts from the credibility of the system."

Most forces, the authority said, merely said that suitable action would be taken and the report itself was sometimes surprised by the results of hearings. It noted: "If we with our special knowledge of cases are mystified, it is not surprising that complainants and others are as well."

Forces helped the authority by providing details of disciplinary decisions, but one force took secrecy to the point, the report said, that it "positively resisted any attempt at finding out what transpired". The authority did not identify the force.

The report also had strong

## Poor crime clear-up rate dents confidence

By David Young

FOUR out of five people are generally satisfied with the way the police do their job, according to a survey by the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?* More than half the people who took part, however, say that they think police tend to discriminate against certain groups, most say that the police need to improve their image and a third say they doubt the fairness of police investigations and the police complaints procedure.

More than a third of the 3,600 people in the survey had had personal contact with the police in the past two years, in half of the cases through reporting incidents such as burglary, vandalism, car theft or an accident. Of those, three-quarters were satisfied with the way they were treated, but the others said they were disappointed.

The most common reason given for disappointment was that the police did not seem to do anything. Most were dissatisfied because no culprits were caught and no stolen property was recovered. One in six of those dissatisfied said that they felt that way because they did not receive any follow-up information from the police or because they felt the police were not interested.

*Which?* also reports that many private pay phones in public houses, shops and restaurants are flouting official rules with hidden charges. Some owners profit by charging calls at three times the British Telecom rate, the association found.

It said that Ofcom, the government watchdog body for the industry, said two years ago that private pay phones would give a better service and more choice. Owners must display the call rate and a contact in case of complaints, but a survey by *Which?* found rules being broken. Of 12 phones tested, four gave less than the 80 seconds a BT pay phone gives for 10p for a cheap rate local call. One private pay phone gave 25 seconds for 10p.

Leading article, page 13



The Flying Scotsman marking its return to British tracks at Didcot Station, Oxfordshire, after its tour of Australia in 1988 and 1989, when it made a record non-stop run of 422 miles between Melbourne and Alice Springs. Yesterday it took the press and VIPs on a trip to Banbury

## 'Opportunist' snatches £291m in paper money

By David Sapsted

A MUGGER escaped with more than £290 million in negotiable bonds yesterday after attacking a money broker's messenger in the City of London. The perpetrator stands to make not a penny from the crime, however.

Within the hour, the Bank of England had flashed a warning on the City's market dealing screens detailing the documents stolen. The message said: "There may be an attempt to present these certificates, and bona fides should be extremely carefully checked, with all precautions taken."

The mugger, in his late twenties and dressed in a brown leather biker jacket, attacked Mr John Goddard, aged 58, an employee of Sheppards Money Brokers, at about 9.30am in Nicholas Lane, a quiet sidestreet off Cannon Street. The man held a knife to his throat and demanded money before taking the briefcase. It is believed the robbery was purely an opportunistic attack.

The judge said that more than 60 per cent of complaints made against police officers were dealt with informally or withdrawn before they were ever investigated by the police or examined in supervised cases by the authority.

The report showed that in 1989 the authority had 5,008 cases referred to it for a decision on whether they should be supervised by the PCA. That was a 14 per cent increase on 4,397 cases in 1988. The authority began supervising 879 cases compared with 804 in 1988.

Last year the authority recommended 53 disciplinary charges in 20 cases where the deputy chief officer who had been dealing with the case had initially recommended no disciplinary charges. Twenty-six charges were eventually proved.

The Police Complaints Authority said the investigation of allegations against officers from the former West Midlands Serious Crime Squad has become so large that extra staff may have to be recruited.

THE IRA killer of a woman soldier and a police inspector known as The Jackal — yesterday given two life prison terms and concurrent sentences totalling 539 years after admitting 42 crimes.

Sean O'Callaghan, a former Sinn Fein councillor, stood in the dock with arms folded, appearing unrepentant and unconcerned, as he was sentenced at Belfast Crown Court.

However, Mr Justice McCollum said that he did not believe that O'Callaghan felt remorse for his catalogue of crimes.

O'Callaghan, of Tralee, Co Kerry, Irish Republic, where he once represented the IRA's political wing on the local council, gave himself up to police in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

He refused legal representation and pleaded guilty to terrorist offences committed in the Co Tyrone area in 1974 and 1975. They included the murders of Greenfinch Eva Martin, of the Ulster Defence Regiment, who died in a rocket attack at the Clougher UDR base on May 2, 1974, and Inspector Peter Flan-

wanted to use these certificates in the money markets, they would have had to have done so very soon after the crime. We have no evidence that that happened," a City detective said.

The Bank of England has plans for a Central Money Markets Office to be established later this year to enable such paper money transactions to be carried out on computer, obviating the need for messengers.

There are only three ways the certificates of deposit and Treasury bills could be turned into cash: by waiting for them to mature, by selling them on the market; or by borrowing against their collateral value. In the first case, the bills will not now be honoured and, in the last two, the Bank of England believes the professional markets have been sufficiently forewarned.

However, City dealers said neither the certificates, which have a minimum value of £100,000, nor the bills issued by the Bank of England on behalf of the Treasury, were as strictly regulated as the trade in bearer certificates. Had yesterday's robbery been carried out by an organized gang familiar with the money mar-

## Life for IRA killer who surrendered

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kets, there could have been substantial losses.

The City of London police appealed for witnesses. The thief, aged between 25 and 28, 5ft 10in tall and black, was last seen running west along Cannon Street. Sheppards, a subsidiary of Cater Allen Holdings and no longer connected with Sheppards Stockbrokers, declined to comment on the attack.

A side-effect of the mugging was that almost £300 million was missing from the City's money market's liquidity. The Bank of England stepped in with £300 million of aid to help the market avoid problems for the owners of the bonds and eliminate the risk that the shortage would increase overnight money market lending rates.

BESIDES the traditional fast foods, visitors could sample smoked gravlax or Japanese-style salmon marinated in ginger from a Dagenham firm, or chicken tikka sandwiches with granary bread from a Sussex couple. The Product Connection sold kettle-cooked

## Chips are up for fast food fans

By Ruth Gledhill

TUCKING into smoked salmon, fish and chips, and frozen yoghurt, exhibitors at the fast food show at Wembley said yesterday there was more to takeaways than pizzas and hamsters.

The industry cheered Mr David Maclean, the food minister, who pointed out that such favourites are rich in protein, vitamins and minerals, but said that to escape the "junk food" image, next year's exhibition would be renamed Bite 91.

Besides the traditional fast foods, visitors could sample smoked gravlax or Japanese-style salmon marinated in ginger from a Dagenham firm, or chicken tikka sandwiches with granary bread from a Sussex couple. The Product Connection sold kettle-cooked

## Vets are dismayed by veto on dog register

By Thomson Prentice  
Science Correspondent

The British Veterinary Association yesterday said it was "dismayed and disappointed" by the Government's veto of proposals for a dog registration scheme.

Mr John Bower, president of the association, said the scheme could help to prevent some attacks by dogs on children by making the animals' owners more responsible for controlling them.

"We do not understand the Government's opposition to measures which appear to attract wide support throughout the country and which would be to society's general benefit," he said at a news conference in London.

A proposal to introduce the scheme through the Environmental Protection Bill was defeated by 12 votes in the House of Commons on Monday after the Government imposed a three-line whip; 50 Conservative MPs voted in favour, however.

"If it had been a free vote the decision would have gone the other way," Mr Bower said. The registration of dogs would not make the animals safer but would make their owners more responsible. It might help to prevent a dog making a second attack.

The association was against formal moves to restrict or ban certain breeds of dogs, such as Rottweilers. But the importing into Britain of pit bull terriers, which were bred to be aggressive, was regrettable, Mr Bower said. "Any dog that is genetically selected for aggression is unwelcome in this country."

• An Alsatian and a Rottweiler which ripped open the face of a girl, aged four, on Monday were yesterday at the home of their owner, Mr Aston Markland, of Dudley, West Midlands, who has been warned by police that he faces a court order to have them destroyed.

Caroline Williams needed 200 stitches in her face. She was attacked as she played in a field near her home. Her mother has called for the dogs to be destroyed.

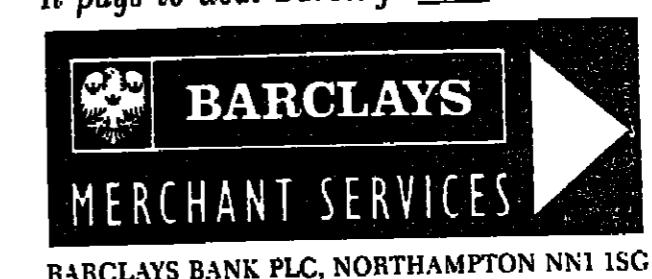
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DID YOU RECEIVE THE  
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# THEY LEFT OUT THE BEST BIT.

Signet Limited — formerly The Joint Credit Card Company Limited — has written to many retailers withdrawing its services as an acquirer of credit card transactions as from 31st May 1990. They advised retailers to make new arrangements. Now the best bit.

The letter omitted to inform readers that Barclays Merchant Services, the world's largest card processor, already offers the complete service for ALL Visa and MasterCard transactions. And it is available now.

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## Entrepreneurs to start at five

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

ENTREPRENEURIAL skills will be instilled into children from the age of five as part of the National Curriculum, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

As well as basic business studies, pupils will be taught how to be effective consumers and how to organize their personal finances to avoid running into debt.

"Increasingly, our prosperity as a nation will depend on the knowledge, skills and understanding of young people," Mr MacGregor said.

"One good way of developing those qualities is through business and community enterprise projects, which have clear objectives and are integrated into the curriculum."

However, as Mr MacGregor was speaking at the launch of a guidance document for schools on the new approach, produced by the National Curriculum Council, Mr Alastair Graham, director of the Industrial Society, launched a new attack on enterprise education in schools.

At the final of the Student Innovation for Business Award in London, Mr Graham said: "Much of the natural enterprise flair of youngsters is trained out of them by the education head-on."

It called for enterprise education to become a "cross-curricular theme" in the new curriculum and said studies should help pupils to develop skills and understanding beyond purely commercial considerations.

In particular, the document cited the need to encourage children to understand the consequences for the environment and human rights of their economic and financial decisions.

Mr Duncan Graham, chief

# Thatcher factor in the battle of Westminster wards

By Jamie Dettmer

NEVER have so few voters been so important as the handful of electors in Westminster who will decide today whether one of the Conservatives' flagship councils falls into Labour hands, delivering a resounding blow to the Prime Minister.

What happens in Westminster could prove crucial in the Whitehall battle over the poll tax as well as deciding the fate of the borough's Thatcherite leader, Lady Porter. It is the council that Mrs Thatcher would most hate to lose and it hangs on the decision of 200 or so voters in two wards.

Among those voters are the coachmen, stable boys and girls and porters of the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace. Most of the staff in the mews are traditional folk, life-long Tory supporters, who

would normally never consider for a moment switching their allegiance to Labour.

On low-pay and confronted for the first time with having to contribute to local services some are thinking the unthinkable. Other traditional Tory voters are also thinking long and hard.

The local elections this year are not normal, dominated as they are by one issue – the poll tax – and by the personality of the Prime Minister. It is slightly abnormal for people who are saving substantial amounts of money, in some cases thousands of pounds, to show their disapproval at such largesse. But Tory candidates in Westminster are coming across wealthy voters who are unhappy at the financial benefits they receive from the changeover from rates to the poll tax. One slightly exasperated Tory candidate, Mr Simon Brocklebank,

Fowler, now suggests to those guilt-ridden voters that they write a cheque to Westminster council for the amount of money they save with the community charge.

Mr Brocklebank-Fowler is one of five Conservative candidates who are in the front-line in these elections. He and his colleagues are contesting the two most marginal Westminster wards – Cavendish and St James's. The battle for control of Westminster will be decided by just a handful of votes.

At the last Westminster elections in 1986, the overall city-wide gap between Labour and the Conservatives was only 200 votes. Labour missed capturing Cavendish by just 106 votes. In St James's, which stretches from traditional Buckingham Palace over to swinging Covent Garden, the gap between the two main parties was 300 votes. This time, Labour believes that it

can secure the three seats in Cavendish and two seats in St James's which eluded it last time. The Conservatives now have 32 council seats and Labour 27. There is one independent.

Both Cavendish and St James's are being vigorously fought by the parties and canvassed with an intensity more usual in a general election. Mr Brocklebank-Fowler and Miss Carolyn Keen are now on their sixth canvass in St James's. On the council estates they always hope to hear singing doorbells on any flat they are canvassing. "A singing doorbell normally means they are Conservative." Their message is a clear one and chimes in with the national Tory argument: Conservative councils cost you less. They compare Westminster's £195 poll tax with neighbouring Labour-controlled Camden's £485. Over in Cav-

endish, which covers the elegant and well-heeled Portland Place, home to the BBC, Cavendish Square and Harley Street, the battle is also warm – and sometimes very hot.

One of the Labour candidates is Mr Paul Dimoldenberg, the council's Labour leader. He works for the political PR firm Good Relations. Some Tories argue that he has opened himself up to attack for his handling of a press conference earlier this week where Labour revealed documents purporting to show that there was collusion between ministers and local Tories to keep the poll tax low. Dr John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, and Mr Dimoldenberg showed that Westminster council had employed a PR lobby firm, GJW, to make its case to the Government over the poll tax and to argue for extra

financial help from Whitehall to avoid electoral disaster in the Cavendish and Little Venice wards. The Tories argue that it is normal practice for councils to employ lobbyists.

The ebullient Mr Dimoldenberg is not shaken. He believes that Labour can take Cavendish, helped, he hopes, by a substantial turnout of 400 nurses from the Middlesex Hospital's John Astor nurses' home, where there is no doubt the strength of anti-Tory opinion, particularly from student nurses angry about the poll tax and the Government's NHS review.

Most commentators are avoiding forecasting who will win the battle. It will be a close-run thing. But if Labour does win on the issue of the poll tax, it would be the height of irony. After all, Westminster's community charge is the second lowest in the country.

CHRIS HARRIS

## Poll tax squabble dominates local battle to the last

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

**FINAL** stages of local election campaigning yesterday were again dominated by the poll tax. Conservatives insisted that a vote for a Tory council would keep down the bills and Labour urged that the bigger the national vote their candidates were accorded, the better would be the hope of having the tax abolished.

The Conservatives maintained stoutly that they would retain control of the key London boroughs of Wandsworth and Westminster. Labour talked of being delighted with an overall gain of 200 seats, some 400 less than they might expect to gain if national opinion poll findings were reflected today.

Both sides are convinced that the furious controversy over the poll tax will increase turnout from the mid-thirties figure normal in council elections to something nearer 50 per cent, and that is unlikely to benefit the Conservatives.

Dr Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, claimed that the poll tax had cost the British taxpayer an extra £2.25 billion. He said that £300 million had been spent on compiling the register, £300 million on administration, £350 million on the transitional relief scheme and £1.3 billion on rebates. By 1991-92, the cost would rise to £4.3 billion.

Dr Cunningham added: "Most independent experts agree that whether it's through adjusting standard spending assessments, assessing husbands and wives separately for rebate purposes, improving the rebate scheme or injecting more cash into transitional relief, it is going to cost at least £5 billion to make any sort of sizeable dent in the average poll tax bill. By next year, the British taxpayer is likely to be forking out an astounding £9 billion in a desperate attempt to keep the Prime Minister's

flagship afloat." That would be equivalent to 6p on the standard rate of income tax.

Accusing Labour of "increasingly hysterical attacks" on Westminster and Wandsworth councils and their Tory leaders, Lady Porter and Sir Paul Beresford, Mr Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, insisted that the Conservatives would keep control of the two flagship London boroughs with the lowest poll taxes. Mr Baker and Mr David Hunt, the Minister for Local Government, were bullish, claiming that the Conservative support had been picking up in recent days since people had received their poll tax bills and begun to understand about transitional relief.

Mr Baker expected the party to make significant gains in Ealing, Lambeth and Hammersmith and Fulham, as well as holding Westminster and Wandsworth.

He insisted that the community charge would continue into the 1990s and that no one had wanted to keep the "unfair" system of the rates. Ten million people would benefit from rebates and seven million from transitional relief, adding that the cost of living under a Labour council was 12 per cent higher on average.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, accused the two main parties of letting down the electorate by running the most negative campaigns he could remember. Labour had refused to offer a constructive thought throughout, while the Conservatives had added confusion and shambles to the poll tax.

The Liberal Democrats, who generally perform better in local elections than their poll standings indicate, believe their vote will hold up because of their advocacy of local income tax, which opinion polls have shown to be the most popular replacement for the rates. "As Thatcherism

enters its declining months, Labour must learn that it cannot be replaced by a vacuum," Mr Ashdown said. "We have gained support during this campaign because we, and only we, have been prepared to put forward positive ideas on local government finance."

Scottish nationalists predicted major advances for their party. Mrs Margaret Ewing, parliamentary leader of the SNP and MP for Moray, said: "We are set to gain substantial numbers of seats in every region of Scotland as more and more Scots realize that only a vote for us will say 'no' to the poll tax. Labour's feeble 48 Scottish MPs and hundreds of cowardly councillors have done nothing to protect Scotland or fight the poll tax."

Today's elections will determine a third of the seats in 36 metropolitan district councils and 120 English and Welsh non-metropolitan districts, with all seats being contested in Preston and Colchester, the 32 London boroughs and the 12 Scottish regional and island councils.

The Conservatives are defending 1,439 seats in England and Wales, Labour 2,238, the Liberal Democrats and the SDP 718, independents 121 and others 22. In Scotland, Labour is defending 225, the Conservatives 62, the Liberal Democrats and SDP 41, the Scottish National Party 37, independents 107 and others 52.

Today's poll is a rerun of the 1986 local elections, when Labour took control of 17 councils. Starting from that high mark and with only a third of the wards being contested on many councils, Labour is therefore not expected to win control of many new councils outside London. Its best hopes include Calderdale, Crewe and Nantwich, Cheshire, Rugby, Peterborough, Kirklees, Derby,

Trafford, Wavenny and Great Yarmouth.

The Conservatives, who are defending control in three metropolitan districts, 54 English non-metropolitan districts and 13 London boroughs, are hoping to rob the Liberal Democrats of control in the London boroughs of Sutton and Richmond.

The former Alliance parties have been in decline in the national opinion polls since the last general election, and Dr David Owen's SDP has virtually abandoned pretensions to being a national party, with few candidates in this election. The Liberal Democ-

cats are not contesting as many as the Alliance did in 1986. As well as their three London boroughs of Tower Hamlets (menaced by Labour), Richmond and Sutton, they have to defend the shire districts of Adur, Congleton, Eastleigh, Hereford, Pendle, Southend and Three Rivers.

Local election results are not a clear predictor of national political fortunes: had the 1986 result been repeated at the general election a year later Labour would have won.

All the main parties will be watching the performance of the Green party, which took 15 per cent of the vote and

moved into third place in many areas in last year's European Parliament elections. The Greens have been unable to sustain that effort and have slumped to only 4 or 5 per cent support in national polls. The party is today fielding twice as many candidates as it has ever done in an election, with representatives standing for 162 of the 201 councils where seats are being contested.

Opposite London, the key contest will be in Bradford, where the Thatcherite Tory administration came to office through a by-election, the casting vote of the mayor and the defection of a Labour councillor. The Tories are defending 10 of the 30 seats up for election this time, compared with Labour's 20.

In Scotland, Labour has absolute control of four regions – Strathclyde, Central, Lothian and Fife – and is expected to consolidate its position there. Grampian is more interesting. Until 1986, the council was held by the Tories, and since then it has been run by coalitions. Today, about 16 of its 57 seats are likely to change hands, with many Liberal Democrat votes likely to go to either the SNP or the Tories.

In the Borders, an area run traditionally by independents, the Tories hold four seats and, desperate to increase its vote here, are running its own candidates against independent Tory sympathizers.

Ronald Batty, page 12  
Leading article, page 13

## Elections a vital test for both Labour and Tories

By Michael Hart

**IF** OPINION polls have been reasonably accurate, several councils will shift from having no overall majority to a Labour majority today. More will see the Conservatives lose their overall majority, and a few will move straight from Conservative to Labour.

The percentage swing of votes needed for Labour to win a council is shown in the graph. The base line for comparison is 1986, when the seats were last contested. 1986 was itself a good year for Labour, but opinion polls suggest that a further swing of 7 to 8 per cent towards Labour can be expected. If so, Labour ought to win a majority on a further 15 or 16 councils including

several in London, and the Tories would lose majorities on about a dozen.

Some that might fall to Labour are ones that the Government most wishes to retain – Wandsworth and Westminster, with low community charges, and Bradford, the largest metropolitan district that the Conservatives control in northern England.

Basildon and Calderdale would both have Labour majorities on a uniform swing of 4 per cent. Each council has been poll tax "capped", so Mr Patten's claim that electors would be grateful to the Government for protecting them from high-spending

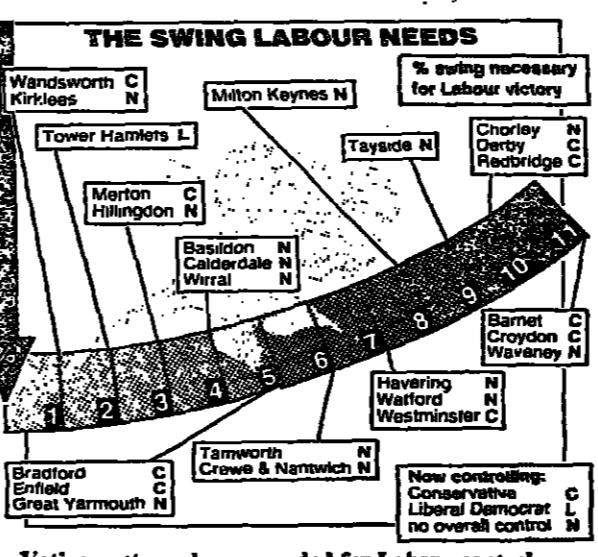
local authorities will be tested. There are two problems in predicting council election outcomes on the basis of an overall two-party swing. The first is that the parties target wards to capture or to save. This usually increases turnout and squeezes whichever party is third. In Westminster, where Labour seems to need a 7 per cent swing, a smaller one would do if it gains extra votes in two marginal wards.

The second problem is that a two-party swing takes no account of the Liberal Democrats. In Kirklees and in Calderdale, they were a significant force in 1986 and it is the extent of their decline that might decide whether Labour

gains the two metropolitan districts. In Cheltenham, Craven and Winchester, where Liberal Democrats are the major threat to the Conservatives, they may gain from anti-Conservative feeling.

Labour is ready to celebrate. However, if it is to stand a chance of winning a general election, it must gain several constituencies in council areas such as Merton, Wirral and Calderdale. Only if Labour goes much further and wins councils such as Croydon and Barnet are the Conservatives (and, indeed, Mrs Thatcher in Finchley) in real trouble.

Michael Hart is a fellow of Exeter College, Oxford



Voting pattern change needed for Labour control

## MAN IN THE NEWS

## Fast and relentless rise of Patten protege

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

IN MOVING to the Department of the Environment to take over responsibility for the community charge Mr Michael Portillo, to be Minister for Local Government, will be reunited with the man who gave him his first job in politics.

Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, took on Mr Portillo at Conservative Central Office when he was director of the Conservative Research Department in the late 1970s.

A friend of both men said yesterday that Mr Patten had immediately been impressed by the quality of his protege's work and predicted a glowing future for him.

Although ideologically well apart – Mr Patten is firmly on the Tory liberal wing, Mr Portillo on the right – the mutual respect has been maintained in the years since, with



Mr Michael Portillo: "An authentic radical"

each of them rising fast at opposite ends of the Conservative political spectrum.

Despite Labour jibes yesterday that Mr Portillo had been appointed to ensure there is no "backsliding" as the Government carries out its crucial review of the charge's operation, it is clear that Mr Patten is glad to have one of Mrs Thatcher's ablest young ministers with him.

By appointing him to such a key role, Mrs Thatcher is giving Mr Portillo the platform from which most Tory MPs believe he will launch himself into the Cabinet and possibly into a leadership contest of the future.

Mr Portillo, aged 36, is viewed by Conservative MPs across the party as one of the few realistic right-wing contenders. However, the man Nigel Lawson, one of his former employers,

gate, north London, six years ago. He swiftly built on the reputation for competence which he brought with him after his spell at the Research Department, the Downing Street policy unit, and as an adviser to three Cabinet ministers: Mr David Howell at Energy and Trade and Industry, and Mr Lawson as Chancellor. He was a junior whip within two years of being elected. In his first ministerial post, Under-Secretary for Social Security, he was reckoned to have smoothly handled the transition to a new benefits system.

His reputation as the rising star of the "new right" was further enhanced when Mrs Thatcher speedily promoted him to minister of state rank (at Transport) in 1988. He has impressed backbench MPs with the way he has handled issues raised by them on behalf of constituents. His practice of adding his own handwritten note to the replies drafted by his civil servants has endeared him to them.

Mr Michael Denzil Xavier Portillo is the son of a Spaniard, Sr Luis Gabriel, a Republican academic, a professor of administrative law at Salamanca University, who fled Franco to settle in Britain. He still lives in Hertfordshire. His son speaks Spanish well and has a nostalgic interest in his father's homeland.

He was grammar school educated and got a first in history at Cambridge. People who know him well say Mr Portillo is an authentic radical. "He is no chameleon," said one. He is also said to have the combination of mental toughness, technical grasp and ability to listen that would be invaluable in the hot seat to which he is moving.

The document, a draft practice note entitled *Maintaining the Community Charges Register*, tells local authority registration officers how to

keep the register up to date. Mr Gould said that the document encouraged landlords to "play big brother" to their tenants. It also advised councils to ask residents in their area for their previous address and to check with schools and further education colleges for dates of birth of pupils even though there was no legal duty for them to provide such information.

Mr Gould said: "Community charge registration officers are advised to check records of deaths so as not to miss opportunities to charge the higher standard charge on a dead person's empty property." He said that the document advised canvassing of information on a rolling basis and claimed that it held out the possibility of a national computer-held "information exchange" of all changes of address in England. The Lab-

our spokesman said that the document represented a threat to civil liberties.

• A grieving widower yesterday received a demand for the two days his wife lived after the poll tax was introduced. Mr Cyril Wood, aged 67, was sent a bill for £1.91 from the council at Dudley, West Midlands. His wife Dorothy, aged 65, died on April 3.

Mr Wood of Brierley Hill, West Midlands, said he was "shocked and disgusted" by the bill. The demand for £1.91 for his wife came with his own poll tax bill of £387.

A council spokeswoman said: "The poll tax is worked out on a daily basis, and we have to send out bills for it. The legislation is so very tight that it even goes down to the wording which must be used on the bill we have to send out."

## Baker's slant on middle of the road politics

By Richard Ford  
Political Correspondent

THE chairman of the Conservative Party was doing what he does best: permanently grinning and marketing the message like a superior lollipop man in the centre of one of the more renowned streets of south London.

Fame has been thrust upon Hazelbourne Road because it marks the dividing line between Wandsworth and Lambeth councils, whose records in administration and poll tax levels have been a gift for ministers trying to sell the community charge.

Surrounded by Conservative candidates in Lambeth, Mr Kenneth Baker yesterday tried to wring the last ounce of propaganda from a comparison of the poll tax bills for each side of the street. "The holy land of Wandsworth are charging £148 and on the left, Lambeth are paying £496 poll tax," he declared.

Stepping quickly on to the Lambeth side of the street, Mr Baker castigated the Labour-controlled authority. "Run badly – wasteful – extremist – millions in uncollected rents and rates – hopeless Labour – wonderful Conservatives" poured forth as he did one interview after another.

It was an incantation repeated at every stop, interrupted only by his disconcerting habit of occasional bursts of laughter as if reminding the media around him that he recognizes the shamelessness of the hyperbole.

Few voters heard his final rallying call and Mr Baker made little effort to seek out as he strolled along Abbots Road in Lambeth. Mr Baker's style

# Law colleges start night classes as demand soars

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

**A**N OVERWHELMING demand from students seeking to qualify as solicitors has prompted an unprecedented decision by the five colleges of law in England and Wales to start night classes for several hundred extra students.

The full-time courses, which will create an extra 614 places in September, are being held as a one-off emergency measure to cope with what is amounting almost to a crisis in the mismatch between demand and places.

Mr Richard Holbrook, chairman of the board of the management of The College of Law, said the college was "very concerned about the high level of unmet demand for places on courses leading to the Law Society's final examination".

Throughout the country, taking both the five colleges of law and the eight polytechnics who run the Law Society's vocational course, there are about 4,000 places for students wishing to qualify as solicitors. However, there are

## Students face race bias by big firms'

By Frances Gibb

LAW students from ethnic minorities who apply to big commercial firms of solicitors suffer more discrimination than any other candidates, the Law Society says today. The society says in a report that black candidates had to apply to a "significantly larger number of firms for each invitation received for interview".

At the interview itself, they were twice as likely to be asked seemingly irrelevant questions about family background; and at the end of the selection process, they were almost twice as likely as white candidates to have received more rejections of offers than articles.

The report finds little evidence of direct or intentional discrimination. Large commercial practices, however, usually operate a policy of seeking "excellence" from candidates — "usually an Oxford or Cambridge degree". Proportionately fewer ethnic minority candidates qualified under such criteria of excellence.

The report, funded jointly by the Law Society and the Commission for Racial Equality, has resulted in talks about selection policies between the Law Society and some large City firms.

Mrs Jennifer Israel, chairman of the society's race relations committee, said: "Clearly there is more work to do in persuading and educating firms of solicitors about improving recruitment practices."

The profession, the report says, should overhaul the criteria and selection procedures for articled clerks.

*Ethnic Minorities and Recruitment to the Solicitors' Profession* (Law Society Slip, 227, The Strand, London WC2, £4.95)



Mrs Israel: "Firms need to improve recruitment"

## Old tyres may provide power for Midlands

By Craig Seton and Nick Nuttall

THE first British power plant capable of incinerating at least half of the 25 million old tyres dumped annually while providing electricity for up to 20,000 homes may be built near Birmingham.

The company behind the scheme, Elm Energy and Recycling, of Hebron, Connecticut, is investigating four potential sites within 15 miles of the city for the £32 million plant, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mrs Anne Evans, Elm's president, said that it had submitted plans to the Department of Energy to try to benefit from government support for alternative energy projects. Elm was confident

that the plant would be environmentally safe and could end the dumping of waste rubber at land-fill sites.

Mrs Evans said that if the plant were approved, it could be running by 1992, with its electricity offered to the privatized Midland Electricity company. The process had been used in the United States. Steel, zinc oxide and gypsum waste were recycled.

Friends of the Earth and poverty groups, including Neighbourhood Energy Action, have made a joint call for investment in more efficient use of energy in low-income households to combat the misery of cold homes and to reduce greenhouse-effect gases.



Closely observed flower: Rachel Postlethwaite, aged four, takes a close look at one of our rarest wild flowers, the snake's head fritillary, at the National Nature Reserve at North Meadow, by the Thames at Cricklade. The plant was once commonly found along the Thames Valley

## Academic seeks UK's 'black bourgeoisie'

By Craig Seton

A RESEARCH project has begun to assess the growth of what is said to be a new "black elite" of Asian and Afro-Caribbean entrepreneurs who are overcoming social and commercial barriers to succeed in business.

Professor Ellis Cashmore, who will head the project at the University of Aston, Birmingham, said yesterday that he believed that the emerging black middle class was another side of

the story of deprivation and disadvantage frequently associated with Britain's ethnic minorities.

Professor Cashmore, aged 40, a sociologist at the University of Tampa, Florida, is a visiting fellow at Aston, where researchers from the university's business school have joined his project team.

He wants to interview Asian and Afro-Caribbean entrepreneurs in order to understand the reasons for their success in business. He believes

that the growth of a black British middle class could be similar to the emergence of a "black bourgeoisie" in the United States, where an estimated 20 per cent of blacks have become high-earners, while the majority of their community continue to struggle in relative poverty.

Professor Cashmore said yesterday: "I think there is an emergent black middle class in this country, but it has emerged probably over the last five years. There are now a greater number

of black business owners than ever before, but how solidly they are established is the question."

He said he wanted to discover whether black entrepreneurs had been encouraged by the business climate created by the Thatcher Government or whether they had gone into business on their own as the only alternative to unemployment.

Professor Cashmore added: "I think there has been too much gloom and doom and despair."

## Listeria may be made notifiable

By Sheila Gunn  
Political Reporter

THE Department of Health is considering whether to make listeria a notifiable disease to compel doctors to report suspected cases to the authorities.

In response to demands from the Commons social services committee, the department indicated enthusiasm yesterday for the committee's recommendation to include listeria in the updated list being compiled.

It said that more than 500 letters had been sent to the department over the list with many suggesting adding other diseases, including listeria. The latest figures disclose a small drop in the number of deaths in England and Wales from listeria, including abortions, from 63 in 1988 to 55 last year. But the committee is concerned that some deaths and miscarriages due to the disease may escape diagnosis unless it is made notifiable.

The department will start a study next month to find out women's views about being questioned over their eating habits while pregnant.

*Food Poisoning: Listeria and Listeriosis* (Government's response to the Commons social services committee's 1st report, Stationery Office: £1.75)

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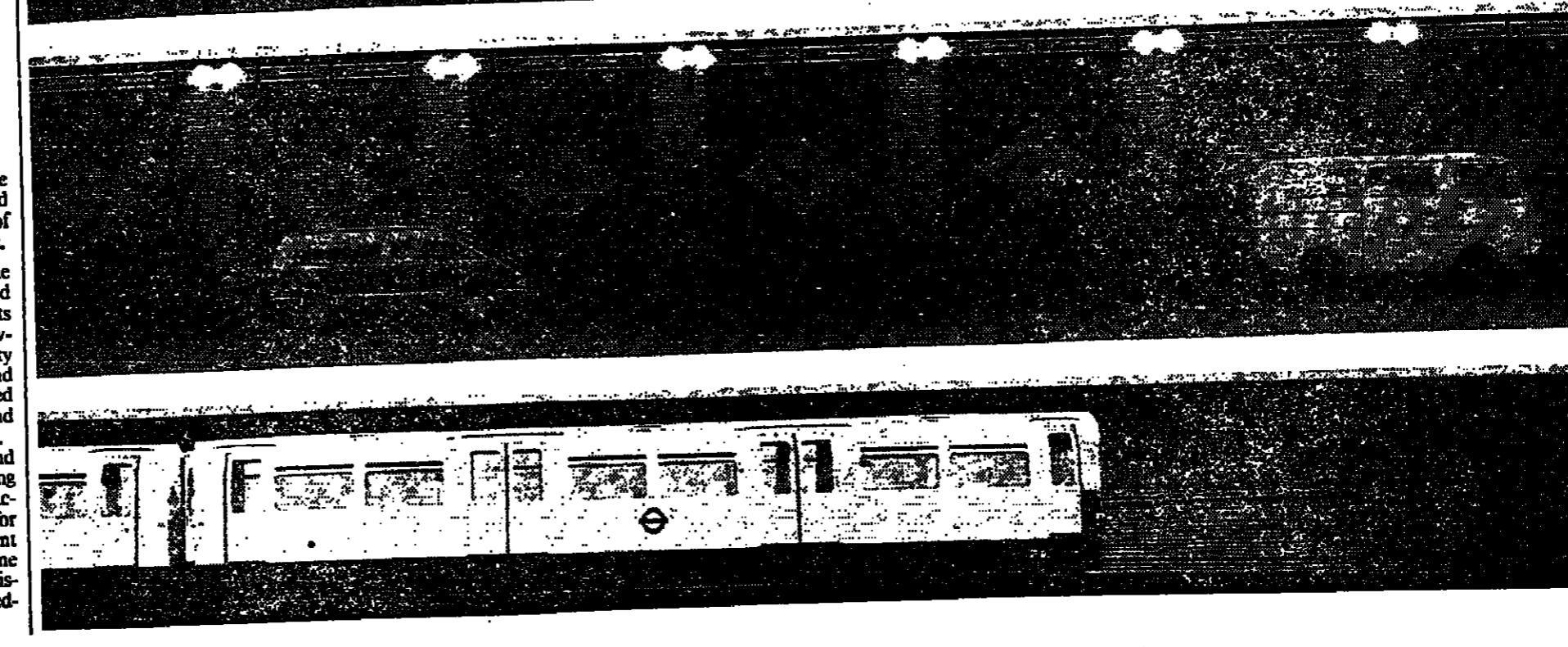
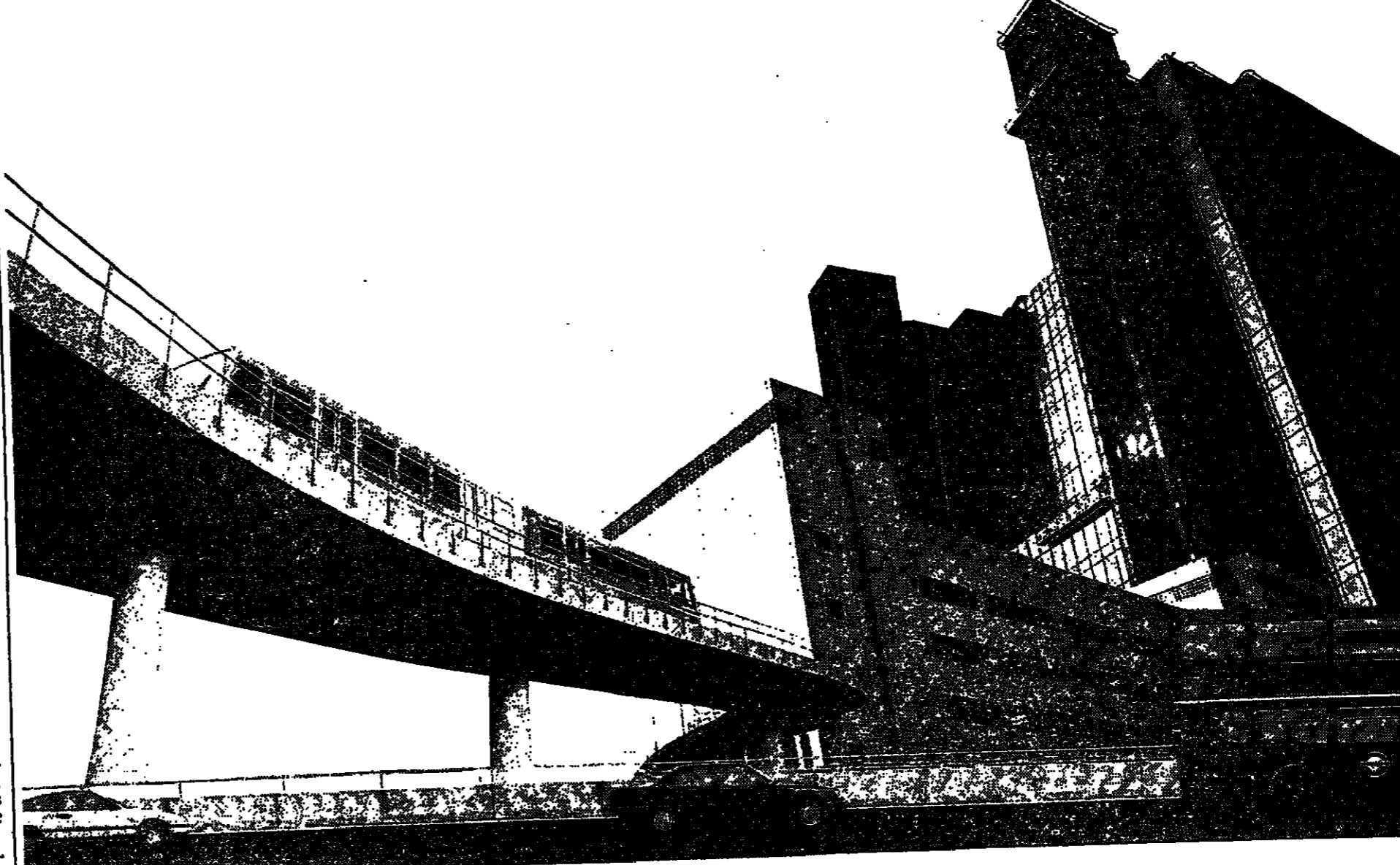
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# Patten defends conservancy council division

THE Government's proposal to divide the Nature Conservancy Council into four country-based councils was defended in the Commons last night by Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Speaking during the report stage of Environmental Protection Bill, he rejected arguments from the Opposition that the council would be left without an overall strategic function. He said that the proposed joint committee would have the resources needed.

Mr Bryan Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, moved a new clause calling for the proposed joint committee on countryside functions to undertake research at a national level and to establish common standards relating to

## ENVIRONMENT

natural and wildlife conservation.

He said that the Government had exploded a bombshell on the conservation world last year by announcing that the Nature Conservancy Council was to be dissolved and its functions shared out among a number of countryside councils.

Many saw the proposal as having emanated from a deal between the Scottish Office and powerful commercial interests which wanted to pursue their forestry proposals, particularly in the Firth of Forth.

There were well founded fears that the consequences would mean a body blow to the whole conservation movement. The suspicions and fears remained unaltered.

Labour had sought to align itself with the overwhelming concern of the conservation movement that a gap would be left after the dismemberment.

There was a need to preserve the science base, to provide a UK dimension to advice tendered to the Government, common standards throughout the UK, and a need for UK representation on international bodies.

The voluntary conservation movement remained unshaken and took the view that this part of the Bill should be abandoned. Sir William Wilkinson, chairman of the conservancy council, had written to MPs that a new set of conservation bodies answering to different government departments might not be able properly to retain "a sufficient Great Britain overview of science and policy issues in Britain so essential to the continued conservation of our natural heritage".

He had written that many of the concerns about the Bill as it affected the council remained unresolved, especially over questions of resources, clarity of legislation and the work of the proposed joint committee.

Nothing they had heard so far led them to conclude that the Government had resolved how to meet a degree of devolution but preserve a proper Great Britain dimension on the science base and the setting of standards.

To carry out this dismemberment was going to be very expensive. The best estimate from the council was that the reorganization would add £20 million to its present budget.

"No one on the Labour side of the House has ever argued against the devolutionary required to make Scotland fit for the future," he said.

"What is at issue is whether in the course of providing that greater degree of devolution, it is necessary to dismantle, dismember, dissolve, destroy the assured."

## Poll for Bootle on May 24

A by-election at Bootle on Merseyside is to be held on May 24 after the moving of the writ in the Commons yesterday.

Labour leaders have timed the contest to build on their expected success in today's local elections and to continue highlighting the Government's difficulties over the community charge.

Labour's candidate for the by-election, caused by the death in March of Mr Alan Roberts, is Mr Mike Carr, who is a mainstream Kinnock supporter and a local man. The Tory candidate is Mr James Clappison. General election: A Roberts (Lab), 34,975; P Papworth (C), 10,498; P Denham (SDP/All), 6,820. Lab maj: 24,477.

## Bill would replace GLC

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab), a former chairman of the Greater London Council, was given leave in the Commons to introduce the London Government Bill.

The measure, which has no chance of becoming law, provides for the election of a capital-wide authority and a mayor for the present London Mayor whose sphere of influence is confined to the City. Mr Banks said that he would be honoured to serve as mayor.

## Howarth for front bench

Mr George Howarth (Knowsley North, Lab) has been appointed to the Opposition's front bench team on the environment. He will be concerned mainly with housing and planning matters and will work with Mr Clive Soley, the shadow housing minister. He replaces Mr Alan Roberts who died in March.

## Steel chief to see Rifkind

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, is to meet Sir Robert Soley, chairman of British Steel, in the "near future", to discuss the company's investment strategy among other matters. Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State, Scottish Office, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

## New bishop

The Bishop of Bristol (the Right Rev Barry Rogerson) was introduced into the House of Lords.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Home Office; Prime Minister; Proceedings on Australian Constitution (Public Record Copy) Bill; Private Bill; Lords (3); National Health Service and Community Care Bill, committee, fifth day.

## Peers will be asked to be more open on interests

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

PEERS are to be asked to declare their financial interests more often and more fully before speaking on related subjects in the Lords.

But the Lords' procedure committee has decided not to recommend to the House that a register of interests should be set up on the lines of the Commons registers for MPs, their staff and journalists.

Lord Aberdare, chairman of committees, will present the report to the House within the next few weeks and ask for the peers' approval.

Lords' sources disclosed yesterday that the committee's investigation concluded that, although most peers declare a general interest when speaking in debates, the system is open to abuse.

The committee agrees that the Lords is a House of experts, but its key concern is the increase in the number of peers reading out briefs on behalf of organizations or lobbyists and tabling amendments to Bills on their behalf without stating their links to the organizations.

The peers' "bible", *The Companion to the Standing Orders*, says: "Lords speak always on their personal honour. It follows that if a lord decides that it is proper for him to take part in a

council which operates on a Great British basis."

Mr Patten said that the Opposition was in a mess on the issue. The joint committee would be able to obtain the data and information it needed directly from the country councils.

A small secretariat and technical unit would be required. The House of Lords select committee, chaired by Lord Carver, had recommended up to 20 professional staff and the Government was sympathetic.

Lord Carver had made clear, however, that the joint committee should not be an independent quango, but derive its funds through the country councils. The ability to employ staff directly was one of the hallmarks of full quango status and the Government would not be doing that.

The Government's proposals had certainly aroused strong emotions. No one had been able to convince him that it was inherently wrong to have separate public sector agencies for nature conservation in each country, provided that there were satisfactory arrangements to deal with the wider dimensions of wildlife — as was being provided with the joint committee under Professor Frederick Holliday.

A new beginning was needed and that was what the Bill would achieve. The credentials of the new agencies could not be doubted seriously in view of the appointments of the chairmen-designate, Professor Holliday, Lord Cranbrook, Mr Magnus Magnusson and Mr Michael Griffith. Each had links with the voluntary movement.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Denton and Reddish, Lab) said he had some sympathy with the new Secretary of State who was being called upon to perform Houdini feats on both the poll tax and on this Bill. On the Nature Conservancy Council, the minister was secretly looking forward to defeat in the Lords and that was why the Government had done so little work to flesh out its proposals.

The Government was getting rid of the council only because it had brought awkward advice to ministers. Ministers had turned to the messenger.

Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C) said that he was the longest serving member of the council.

Sir William Wilkinson, chairman of the council, had been acting in his personal capacity when writing to MPs.

Most members of the council were in favour of the proposals and the Scottish members had been unanimously in favour of them.

"Of course the staff have been very concerned from the beginning as staff would be when they realize that there may be no allocations of jobs, although the minister from the start was able to say that their jobs were assured."

## Rifkind promises benefit for Scots

MINISTERS are determined that the north of England and Scotland will benefit from the building of the Channel tunnel, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said during Commons question time.

Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East, Lab) said that electrification of lines between Edinburgh and Glasgow was needed to provide the most modern type of service and a decision was becoming urgent because the present electrification programme at Carlisle would end this year.

The Government should ensure that there was a start on electrification between the two cities and between Edinburgh and Dundee before the electrification teams were disbanded.

Mr Rifkind said that electrification was essentially a matter for British Rail and the rail authorities were in the best position to judge whether investment should be in express units of electrification.

Mr Alistair Buchanan-Smith (Kincardine and Deeside, C) said that the British Rail decision to end a sleeper service from Aberdeen to London without proper consultation made some MPs worried about British Rail's commitment to the east coast line, particularly when it showed itself reluctant to consider the serious importance of electrification.

Mr Rifkind said that he was concerned about what Mr Buchanan-Smith said. He understood that British Rail was proposing to combine two overnight trains, putting sitting passengers and sleepers together on the same train (laughter).

Mr Brian Wilson, Opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that they understood from ScotRail that they were prepared to reconsider electrification of the Edinburgh to Glasgow line.

He asked: "Will the Scottish Office, for once, enter into some constructive spirit on rail services and electrification, and Mr Rifkind use whatever diminished influence he has to get rid of the absurd 8 per cent per annum return on investment criterion?"

"What is the Scottish Office doing about the Channel tunnel and the now imminent prospect of Scotland being further isolated and disadvantaged because of electrification and top-level high-speed rail services will not extend into Scotland. Is there any strategy on the tunnel in the Scottish Office?"

Mr Rifkind: "I share his enthusiasm for rail travel, and I agree about the importance of ensuring that British Rail carries out the necessary investment so that Scotland can have the full benefit of the tunnel."

debate on a subject in which he has a direct pecuniary interest, he should declare it. It is, however, considered undesirable for a lord to advocate, promote or oppose in the House any Bill or subordinate legislation in or for which he is not been acting or concerned for any pecuniary fee or reward."

As there is no Speaker in the Lords, it is left to other peers to object if they believe a member has not declared a pecuniary interest. But in practice that does not happen. The report will call for those rules to be tightened to require peers to state their specific interest and to do so whenever they speak on a related subject.

One occasion in recent years which would have been affected by such a requirement was the introduction of a Bill to change the drug patent laws by Lord Northfield who declared that he was an adviser to the pharmaceutical industry. He did not, however, declare in the House that he was a paid consultant to the American drug company Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

Many other peers are known to have accepted briefs from organizations, either paid or voluntary, and then argued for changes in legislation without always declaring their interests.



## 'Fiddler on the Roof'

MR MALCOLM Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, was dubbed a "latter-day King Canute". During Commons questions over his insistence that the poll tax was here to stay.

He retorted that his shadow, Mr Donald Dewar, was a "Fiddler on the Roof" because of his failure to spell out details of Labour's proposed roof tax.

During rowdy exchanges, Mr Dewar asked the Secretary of State to confirm that there would be relief for Scottish poll tax payers by this summer.

In view of the admission made by the Prime Minister of fatal flaws in the poll tax, did he hold to his statement last month that the tax worked and was here to stay?

Mr Rifkind said that the community charge was here to stay. Improvements, if there were any to be made, would apply throughout the United Kingdom.

He was not surprised that 30 per cent to 40 per cent of people would like to see the rates back. That was exactly the proportion who did not pay a penny under the old system.

He had accused Labour earlier of being coy

about the cost of its proposed roof tax. "If he wishes to describe me as a latter-day King Canute, I have to describe him as a latter day Fiddler on the Roof" (laughter).

Earlier, Mr Alexander Salmond (Banff and Buchan, SNP) described himself as a non-payer of the tax and proud to be part of the campaign which would sink it. Would the coming changes to the legislation be backdated to cover the full year in which Scots had to face the full bill?

Mr Rifkind (Pembroke, C) said that there was something fundamentally undemocratic about well-heeled free-loading scroungers, elected to the House of Commons, seeking to change a law which they did not obey.

He withdrew the word "scroungers" at the request of the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill), replacing it with "those people who do not pay their dues to society and expect other people to pay for them".

Mr Rifkind said that there was something disreputable about such "free-loading MPs" who imposed an even heavier burden on the rest of the community.

## Guns for Iraq debate refused by Speaker

### ARRESTS

along, what was happening. I hope that honourable and patriotic men are not going to be pilloried to save the Government from the appropriate standing order.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) complained of the action of the Customs and Excise against employees of Walter Somers over the export of the steel pipes. He said that three senior managers and seven employees had been interviewed. He had now seen reports that three people had been arrested, but not as he understood it, charged. The actions of the customs had caused grave disquiet to employees and their families and there was great anxiety in the firm and in Halesowen generally.

Action of this kind by a Government department was unusual, to say the least, when the Government knew, all

the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said the replies were a matter for the discretion of ministers.

## Decision soon on sculpture

### THREE GRACES

spokesman in the Lords on the arts said that the offer made by Mr Jacob Rothschild for the sculpture should be considered by ministers.

Lord Hesketh said that the Government's role, as in other cases, was that of deciding on an export licence.

Mr Ridley had proposed an extension of the criteria to provide protection after uncertainty and unhappiness in the art world about the future of the sculpture.

• The government indemnity scheme enables institutions to borrow the cream of privately owned works of art. Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said in a Commons written reply.

He was replying to Mr Timothy Wood (Stevenson, C), who asked what steps he was taking to encourage public access to important works of art held privately.

Mr Luce said that the scheme encouraged public access to privately owned works of art by removing the cost of insurance.

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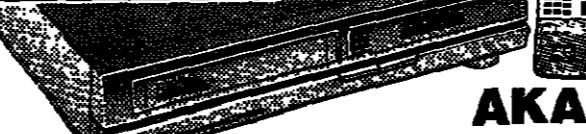
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# Gorbachov humiliation never happened – official

From Mary Dejevsky  
Moscow

THE Soviet government newspaper, *Izvestia*, was alone among Soviet media yesterday to report the 40,000-strong demonstration against President Gorbachov at Monday's May Day rally in Moscow, and his premature departure from the reviewing stand. According to Soviet television and the rest of the press, the humiliation never happened.

What took place instead, according to *Tass*, was a small demonstration by immature and occasionally irresponsible political groups, who shouted provocative slogans and tried to use the occasion – unsuccessfully – for their own ends.

*Tass* reported: "When the trade-union sponsored demonstration was over ... columns from the city's different regions, organized by the Moscow City Council and the League of Voters, entered the

square one by one. The ranks of the demonstrators included representatives of a broad spectrum of organizations and movements which – although they are still called 'informals' – have become a reality of our political life. Pluralism was reflected in the slogans, and we have to say frankly that we would have found it hard to imagine some of those banners flying over Red Square until recently.

We should also note that the number of demonstrators was considerably fewer than had been expected and the impression created by the procession was at times hard to take: individual slogans were openly provocative, hooliganistic and extremist. They called not for consolidation but for direct confrontation with the constitutional authorities."

This *Tass* account, in one form or other, has now become the authorized version of Tuesday's events. Every national Soviet

paper, bar one, reprinted it, either by itself and attributed to *Tass*, or in the course of a round-up of the Moscow May Day by their own correspondents – "with *Tass*". In these composite reports, when the time came to report the second Red Square demonstration, the wording was pure *Tass*. It also provided the commentary to the truncated television film of the demonstration.

The official Communist Party paper, *Pravda*, chose to add a little didacticism of its own, writing that the behaviour of the demonstrators made "appeals for international solidarity and cohesion against anarchy and violence, and for joint action to establish civil peace, sound all the more urgent and convincing."

However, *Izvestia* published on its front page a long and rather different account, which said unambiguously that the official party had been "compelled" to leave Red Square. After describing the

arrangements for the demonstration, enumerating the mustering points and the fully voluntary basis of participation, it said: "The organizers had made known to the official authorities that there would be no censorship of the banners carried by the demonstrators. The only demand was – which direction would the changes take." Expressing concern that some of the slogans were "calls for direct confrontation with the constitutional authorities", the report went on: "In these circumstances, the people on the stand – who included the newly elected Mayor of Moscow, Mr Gavril Popov – were compelled to leave Red Square and the last column of informal groups held their demonstration only for the benefit of each other."

After delivering a homily about the demonstrators' lack of a mandate for their actions, the paper concluded that although the noisy contributions from the crowd would "hardly affect the political situation in the country, they did, none the less, spoil the wisdom of the organizers."

able to show their courage but also accelerate changes in the country." *Izvestia* commented: "We cannot exclude the possibility that they might achieve some sort of 'acceleration'; the only question is – which direction would the changes take." Expressing concern that some of the slogans were "calls for direct confrontation with the constitutional authorities", the report went on: "In these circumstances, the people on the stand – who included the newly elected Mayor of Moscow, Mr Gavril Popov – were compelled to leave Red Square and the last column of informal groups held their demonstration only for the benefit of each other."

But three factors may have played a part. Although often not distributed until the morning, *Izvestia* is an evening paper and would have had to decide its editorial line before the, now definitive, *Tass* report was available. Second, it is at present without an editor-in-chief – the previous editor, Igor Laptev, was recently appointed chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Chamber of the Union and a new editor has not been named. A temporary or junior editor might have taken the decision. Third, the paper is the organ of the Soviet Government, not of the party, and its coverage of Soviet politics has tended to favour the radical reformists. Being responsible to the Government rather than to the party, it

might incline towards the Prime Minister rather than the party leadership in a conflict.

● RIGA: After a stormy debate, the caucus of deputies of the Latvian Popular Front agreed yesterday on a declaration of Latvian sovereignty to be put to the republic's supreme soviet, today (Anatol Lieven writes). The motion provides for a "transition period" to real independence, following the Estonian rather than Lithuanian pattern.

The final draft declares illegal the Soviet annexation of Latvia, and restores in principle the validity of the 1922 constitution of the independent republic. But only four of the proposed constitution's clauses are actually to be brought into effect: those declaring Latvia an independent democratic republic; that all sovereign power belongs to the Latvian people; Latvian sovereignty over the whole territory of Latvia, and provision for elections.

## Moscow protests may slow reform and spark revenge

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

"Mark my words, they will take their revenge," said Mr Telman Gulyan, Moscow's folk hero and sacked investigator, of the likely Politburo reaction to the May Day demonstration in Moscow.

The Soviet press also warned that the anti-regime protest might have the opposite effect to that desired, implying that the movement towards greater democracy and economic reform might be reversed.

Spokesmen for two of the informal groups which took part, the Constitutional Democrats (Kadets) and the Social Democratic Association, said that their members had not suffered any adverse consequences as a result. Extra surveillance, harassment, raids on offices, summary detention on petty charges, are all possibilities that may await some of the protesters.

There were many plain-clothes police and KGB in the crowd. Some noted placard wording, or filmed protesters.

A day after the demonstrations – a day on which most Muscovites were on holiday – it is still too early to foresee the consequences, but a few markers had been established. President Gorbachov is caught in the same pincer-grip of the radicals and the conservatives – but perhaps even more tightly than before. The double demonstration showed

that all too clearly: the first, organized by the official trade unions, was in its way as anti-regime as the second anti-communist one. Trade union official after trade union official called for strict price controls and the maintenance of workers' "living standards"; they expressed warnings of a market economy and said that reform should not be pursued at any cost. These were some of the concerns Mr Gorbachov had heard earlier in the Urals.

The reformers can reply that the second Red Square demonstration was a well-used opportunity for the disgruntled masses to let off steam. It is to the advantage of the Moscow organizers that there was no violence, and they will be able to pass the whole episode off as an over-exuberant manifestation of democracy. But the "freedom and democracy" ticket does not help Mr Gorbachov at home any longer. The radicals are way ahead of him.

The continuing problem for Mr Gorbachov's opponents in the leadership is to find an alternative leader who could keep the radicals and the conservatives moving in the same direction of reform.

To judge by some of Mr Gorbachov's recent statements, he feels that unless a degree of political consensus can be maintained at the centre, there is a risk of confrontation.

Tuesday's demonstrations may have assisted Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister. The go-slow reformers used to be Mr Yegor Ligachov's constituency, but their misgivings are increasingly being voiced by Mr Ryzhkov.

The wrath of the Kremlin's conservatives may be partially assuaged by the planned military parade through Red Square next week to mark Victory Day.

As well as boosting the morale of a jaded military, it will also give the Army an opportunity to show that it yields a measure of power.

Mr Gorbachov could also minimize the damage to his own position in the leadership by taking action against the Moscow Communist Party and city council, which helped to organize the demonstration. Again, however, he faces problems. The new council is trying to work within the system. Any heavy-handed action by the Kremlin would hasten the likely confrontation and alienate much of Moscow.

The May Day balance sheet leaves Mr Gorbachov weakened, the open divisions between radicals and conservatives widened, but no one individual strengthened sufficiently to challenge for power. Had there been civil disorder the Army might have sent its tanks to Red Square eight days before Victory Day. As it is, Victory Day should be a celebration and a warning, but not punishment.

Bernard Levin, page 12

Letters, page 13



Shadow of violence: A stone-throwing youth silhouetted against a blazing car as hundreds of young left-wingers wrecked shops, set fires and fought riot police in Kreuzberg, West Berlin, after May Day rallies degenerated into running battles

## East Berlin bows to Kohl on currency

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

THE East German Government relented yesterday in its campaign to secure more favourable terms in the July currency union with West Germany and agreed to the terms laid down by Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor.

The decision enables a formal treaty to be signed on monetary and economic union, the first concrete step towards reunification. The decision was announced simultaneously in Bonn and East Berlin and the provisional rate of three Ostmarks for one Deutschmark at currency-exchange booths was immediately reduced to two-for-one in an attempt to limit speculation.

Herr Günter Krause, the head of the East German delegation, charged with agreeing the terms of a treaty, said it was time East Germans considered the attitude of the West German population towards the effects of monetary union. "This is not just a question of money, but of the future of Germany and we must take into account the fears of the West German population as well as our own expectations," he said.

The statement was a clear response to pressure from Bonn to bring the protracted negotiations on currency union to an end, so as to rescue the dwindling goodwill in the West towards East Germany.

The amount of savings that East Germans can change into Deutschmarks at parity remains at 4,000 marks (21,434), and after that ceiling, the exchange rate will be halved.

Pensioners, the most likely group to suffer in the economic changes ahead, will be allowed to change 6,000 marks at parity. The amount proposed for children has been reduced to half the adult rate after widespread opposition in West Germany. Herr Krause said the agreement was considered final but admitted that many East Germans, particularly those with young families, would be disappointed at the failure of their negotiators to secure a deal on compensation for price rises which will follow currency union because of the removal of subsidies on basic foods and services.

The East German Govern-

ment is now placating the population with the promise of "dynamic development" in the economy leading to a swift rise in wages.

● BONN: The currency treaty agreed yesterday comes four days before the East German local elections (Ian Murray writes). The deal represents a compromise which will not cost Bonn extra money thus avoiding endangering the strength of the Deutschmark.

The treaty's 12 points are designed to meet the expectations raised by Herr Kohl during East Germany's general election campaign in March, which enabled the Christian Democrats (CDU) there to win the largest share of the vote.

The CDU-led East German Government, which has been apprehensive about handing on the share of the vote it achieved in March, accepted the compromise so that it would have concrete evidence to show the electors on Sunday that the process of reunification was under way.

The Bonn Government had made it plain from the outset of the two days of intensive negotiations that it could make no further concessions that would cost money. In offering to exchange wages and pensions at parity along with savings up to 4,000 Ostmarks it said it had reached the limits of economic common sense.

The importance of the treaty to East German electors is underlined by a poll taken last week, by the Wickett Institute, among 1,420 people after Bonn made its offer of exchange at parity. This showed that 69 per cent now feel that they are better off economically compared with just 36 per cent the previous week. Only 13 per cent, compared with 27 per cent, said that they were going to be worse off through currency union and the numbers who felt nothing would change had fallen from 21 per cent to 10 per cent. Even the number of "don't knows" had been halved from 16 per cent two weeks ago.

In announcing the agreement, Herr Rudolf Seiters, the Chancellor's Minister, said that there was a joint responsibility to see the rapid introduction of a social market economy in East Germany, to maintain currency stability.

## US seeks unity formula to allay Kremlin fears

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington

When Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, sits down this weekend for the "two plus four" talks he will carry a file of "step-by-step approaches" to persuade the Soviet Union to accept a united Germany within Nato. When Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, attends the same meeting it is thought that he will have a similar file of ideas, but one reading "All or Nothing".

The difference in negotiating tactics may have as much impact upon this summer of European peace negotiations as the substance of the issues

themselves. The US sees no alternative to a unified Germany within Nato. It perceives that outcome as in the interests of the Germans, other NATO members, Germany's eastern neighbours and the Soviet Union. The questions are how to get there, how long the journey will take and, increasingly as time goes by, how much it will cost.

At the Ottawa meeting in February, the Soviet Union appeared briefly to be joining the US path of incremental steps to a new European security system. Since then the Soviet negotiators have alarmed some Americans by appearing to move into reverse, stalling the conventional arms-reduction process and cavilling over details thought to have been agreed.

But today the US has adapted to what its officials prefer to call a "synchronized" rather than an "all-or-nothing" approach by the other side. The US is prepared to

push Germany into what it sees as the right package of incentives which can be tied up with a ribbon for the benefit of Mr Gorbachov's people back home.

The first part of the deal probably has to be a big reduction in the German Army, to be negotiated through the conventional forces process in Vienna. Both sides would want some period of phasing in the changes.

The Soviet Union may have given up the idea of a neutral Germany. Moscow does not want to risk a neutral Germany becoming an independently nuclear-armed Germany, but will still want a big reduction in Nato nuclear arms on German soil.

The US will insist, however,

both to the Soviet Union and to the Germans, that continuing membership of Nato

must mean the siting of nuclear-armed aircraft in Germany.

The chosen weapon, the Tactical Air-to-Surface Missile, which can be fitted on most combat aircraft, will become a key part of discussions.

One of the easier parts of the deal will be the securing of a German commitment on renouncing its own nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Another will be a formal German endorsement of its present Polish border. But mere German promises will not be enough. Thus, the stage is set for the hardest part of the package – the new security structure itself and the transitional arrangements to it.

● BRUSSELS: Borders should become bridges," President Weizsäcker said. "We do not want to tear down the Berlin Wall in order to re-erect it on the Oder and the Neisse. And we ask you, too, to promote the idea of open borders."

The practice is slightly different. East German border guards, apparently encouraged by Bonn, were tightening controls yesterday on the Polish-German frontier. Since the Oder-Neisse line will soon be

the eastern frontier of the European Community, visa checks are becoming rigorous.

But President von Weizsäcker is on an altogether more spiritual mission. His last trip to Poland was on the back of a tank in September, 1939 as part of the German invasion force. But, as President Jaruzelski said last night, he, too, had first experienced Germany as a soldier; it was a fundamental question.

During his banquet speech last night, General Jaruzelski outlined Poland's anxieties about the future with military bluntness. "Germany is becoming again one of the largest powers. That stirs up resentments. Disturbing facts keep these fears alive. And the logical question is raised: How will the future united German state use its huge potential?"

The German President conceded that there was considerable anxiety in Poland: "Some Poles fear a new German drive towards the East and they are frightened of being bought up," he said.

President Jaruzelski used his sharpest tones, in an otherwise conciliatory speech, to demand compensation for the Poles who were used as slave labourers in Hitler's Germany.

## Hungarian parties reach deal

From Ernest Beck  
Budapest

HUNGARY'S two main political parties yesterday put aside their differences during the inaugural session of the country's first freely elected Parliament in 40 years and agreed to co-operate to ensure the smooth passage of legislation. In terms of the agreement between the centre-right Democratic Forum, the largest party, and the Alliance of Free Democrats, the main opposition group, Mr Arpad Goncz, a writer and founding member of the Free Democrats, will become both Speaker and acting President.

In exchange, the Free Democrats are to agree to waive an article of the Constitution requiring a two-thirds majority for the passage of crucial Bills, including those on ownership and land reform, which could have frustrated the Forum-led coalition's attempts to reshape economic policies.

Both parties emphasized that the agreement did not involve the formation

of a "grand coalition", insisting it was no more than tacit acknowledgement that Hungary needs a government that can act swiftly to tackle pressing economic problems. Dr Jozsef Antall, the Forum's president and the likely Prime Minister, said: "Both parties recognize that cooperation is needed because the country is on the threshold of a severe crisis."

Mr Goncz, who spent six years in prison after the 1956 uprising, is expected to play a unifying role by "rising above petty party interests", as one MP described it. It is assumed that he will eventually become President when Parliament elects one before the July summer break.

The memory of Hungary's brief spell of freedom in 1956 and the scars caused by the brutal crushing of the uprising by Soviet tanks haunted the opening session of Parliament. The first business was to approve an unequivocal legal declaration that 1956 was a "revolutionary freedom fight" and not a "counter-revolutionary freedom fight" launched by agents of West

ern imperialism" as the former communist Government claimed. The declaration, which also establishes October 23, the day the revolution began, as a national holiday, said that 1956 "gave us hope to establish a new social order, and now we see that all these sacrifices were not in vain".

There was a mood of buoyant optimism and elation as the new MPs, a former political prisoner, aged 89, the feeling was one of pride that power had been returned to the people and that the communists had finally been sent packing. Instead of the previous rubber-stamp legislature, which met on only eight days a year, the new Parliament will be a professional body of paid representatives continuously in session.

Mr Baker: Step-by-step approach to reunification

Leading article, page 13

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# Optimism as De Klerk and Mandela start talks

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

THE South African Government and the African National Congress have begun their first formal discussions hopeful of reaching agreement on their respective terms for peace.

A mood of cautious optimism prevailed yesterday when the two sides gathered at a closely-guarded Cape Dutch Groot Schuur mansion for three days of talks aimed at removing obstacles to broader negotiations on dismantling apartheid.

Speaking in the grounds of the century-old official home of former white prime ministers before the first session, President de Klerk said the vast majority of South Africans supported the reform process.

"They are opposed to violence, to conflict, to intimidation, and are reaching for peaceful and just solutions. It is incumbent upon all leaders in South Africa to bring to fulfilment these reasonable aspirations of all our people. The talks which begin this afternoon could make an important contribution to this end," he said.

The Government was approaching the meetings with the utmost earnestness, and

## Strike at Soweto hospital

From Ray Kennedy  
Johannesburg

TONNES of dirty linen were piled high yesterday as Soweto's 2,700-bed, 50-year-old Baragwanath Hospital was brought to a standstill by a strike by 1,500 non-medical workers over pay. Maternity wards were closed because there were no clean sheets and no vests or nappies for newborn babies.

On Tuesday mothers were discharged from the hospital within an hour of giving birth, while the orthopaedic and casualty sections, with greatly reduced staffs, were barely managing to carry on.

Baragwanath is the only hospital in Soweto, the black township outside Johannesburg which is home to an estimated population of more than 2 million people. It also, however, serves hospitals in other townships as well as 11 out-patient clinics in Soweto itself — serving some 6 million people altogether.

Late yesterday, after crisis talks on the spot, Mr Danie Hough, the Administrator of the Transvaal, claimed the situation was under control. Outside, groups of strikers waved African National Congress placards and posters proclaiming: "We want a living wage." Dr Chris van den Heever, the hospital's chief superintendent, said strikers had earlier blocked access to the casualty section and had forced nursing assistants out of wards.

Dr George Louw, in charge of community health, said 30 per cent of the 1.5 million patients seen annually were chronically ill with diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. He warned that, because the strikers include pharmacy workers refusing to operate automatic tablet counters, patients would be unable to obtain their normal supplies of medicines. The implications of this, he said, were "strokes, comas and heart failure".

## EC acts to curb lorry 'cancer'

From Michael Birnboim, Brussels

CALLING the growth of lorry traffic in the European Community a "cancer" that had to be removed, the EC Environment Commissioner yesterday announced drastic measures to cut noise and pollution by new lorries as part of a long-term plan to switch the movement of goods from road to rail.

Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana proposed cutting the amount of pollution emitted by diesel lorries by up to 60 per cent compared with current standards, virtually enforcing standards stricter than in the United States. He also insisted that manufacturers must introduce significantly quieter lorries, so that the new "whisper" vehicles could comply with strict night-time restrictions in force in Austria and Switzerland.

The stricter emissions standards are to be introduced in



Mr Joe Slovo, centre, ANC chief of staff, flanked by Mr Mandela and Mr Walter Sisulu in Cape Town yesterday. The three are part of the organization's negotiating team

## ANC identity card doing nicely with Afrikaner police

From Gavin Bell  
Cape Town

A SIGN of the changing times in South Africa is the appearance of a new identity card — the African National Congress "gold" card. Issued to journalists covering peace talks between the ANC and the Government, it is accepted by white security police with Afrikaans comments along the lines of "That will do nicely, sir".

A few months ago, anyone displaying the spear and shield emblem, printed on the gold-col-

oured cards, may have been bundled into prison. Yet it now dominates mass rallies in townships and is emblazoned on flags, posters and T-shirts throughout the country.

Remarkable images of the entente fostered by President de Klerk and Mr Nelson Mandela may be found in the grounds of the Lord Charles Hotel, a luxurious establishment 30 miles from Cape Town, overlooking the vineyards and spectacular coastline of the western Cape.

The temporary headquarters of the ANC delegation, the perimeter is guarded by government security

agents and the interior by erstwhile "terrorists" of the ANC armed wing (Umkhonto we Sizwe). Visitors are screened and escorted by the Afrikaners to the African nationalists at the front portal. The exchanges between men who, until recently, would have shot each other on sight, are cool but courteous.

Not far away is Robben Island,

the grim penitentiary on a windswept outcrop of rock where several members of the ANC delegation spent much of their lives. Even closer is the Victor Verster prison, the residence of Mr Mandela only

three months ago. The venue of the discussions also provides a touch of irony. At the entrance of the 17th-century Cape Dutch estate at Groot Schuur is a weathered bronze relief depicting Jan van Riebeek, leader of the first settlement at the Cape, stepping on to the shores of Table Bay in 1652, his hand extended to a half-naked and bemused Khoi-Khoi family.

The Groot Schuur homestead is a gracious monument to generations of white supremacy. Taking their places at the negotiating table in the former dining room, where Cecil

Rhodes and a succession of South African Prime Ministers deliberated the affairs of state, the ANC delegates were surrounded by priceless treasures of the colonial past. They are also surrounded by arguably the tightest security apparatus in the country's history, threatened as they are by wild men at both extremes of the political spectrum.

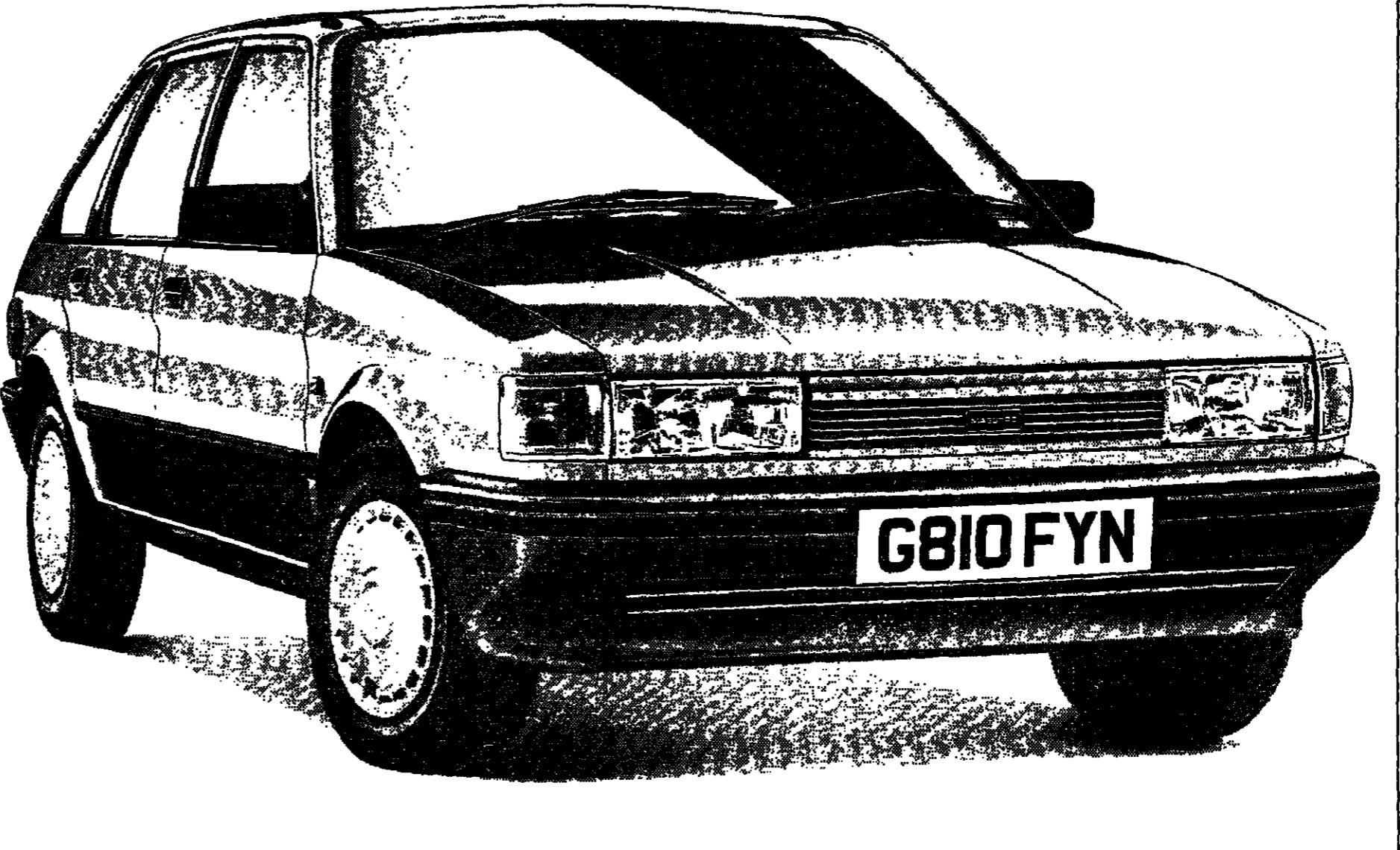
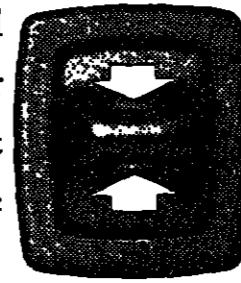
The new-found status of the ANC has been accorded due recognition by the white traffic wardens. On at least one occasion yesterday, the ANC press card averted a heavy parking fine.

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# Shamir's hardline stance perplexes Washington

AMERICAN diplomats in Israel speak of a "worsening crisis" between Israel and the United States over the moribund Middle East peace process and the apparently hardline stance of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the caretaker Israeli Prime Minister. Observers said this could in turn slow the gathering pace of the release of Western hostages.

Yesterday Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Foreign Minister, admitted that he was "worried" by the deterioration in US-Israeli relations, and said America "lacks complete understanding" of the process of forming a new Israeli government on which Mr Shamir is now engaged. He said a new Likud administration would remain committed to the Shamir plan for elections in the occupied territories, but not to attempts to bring about an indirect dialogue between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

*Hadashot*, the Israeli newspaper, however, said that a Likud government would "freeze the peace process and set a collision course with Washington" because a government based on right-wing parties and religious groups was not best fitted to deal with the problems facing Israel. Sources said Mr Shamir was in no mood to accede to

One of the world's most durable bilateral alliances, between the United States and Israel, is showing alarming signs of strain.

Richard Owen in Jerusalem reports

American pressure to be "amenable" about the hostage issue by authorizing the release of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid and other Shia Muslim prisoners held by Israel in southern Lebanon.

Israel annually receives large sums in economic and military aid from the US and is often seen by the Arab world as an American "client state". This week, however, Mr Shamir has displeased the

Bush Administration by apparently going out of his way to dismiss the attempts made over the past year by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to establish an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Mr Avi Pazner, Mr Shamir's main adviser, tried to play down the row, insisting that Mr Shamir had said nothing new in his remarks which came in a speech on Monday. "Mr Shamir did not say no to the Baker proposals. He simply pointed out that the US plan is not the only way to achieve peace," Mr Pazner said.

American diplomats, however, saw it differently, complaining of "a spate of US-bashing such as we have not seen for a decade". Observers said Washington was unsure whether Mr Shamir's remarks were an attempt to placate far-right groups on which a new coalition government could depend or a mark of his "true colours".

In his controversial remarks, Mr Shamir said Israel

three, in Islamic hands. The trouble is likely to come because the hostage holders would prefer the Israelis to barter their Shias for American hostages than for Israeli ones – a deal which, even at the best of times for US-Israeli relations, Jerusalem would be unlikely to accept.

The general outlook is seen here as bleak. Mr Shamir's new government is likely to be more difficult to deal with, not less. There is increasing talk here of Israeli electoral reform to reduce the power of extremists – but little hope of quick change.

*Haaretz*, another Israeli newspaper, has warned that a right-wing Shamir Government will lead to additional US-Israeli tensions and will isolate Israel internationally just as it is beginning to mend fences with several countries, including the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. Aides to Mr Shamir, however, said the US, the West and the international community in general should judge the forthcoming Shamir administration by its actions.

Israeli policy on hostages, unlike that of the US, is to negotiate for release of its own captives, currently at least

saw no need for a dialogue with the Palestinians in the near future, adding that if such talks did begin there was no need for them to be held in Cairo, as laid down in the Baker plan. Mr Shamir added that Israel did not have to accept every proposal made by the US Secretary of State.

The State Department, reflecting evident US frustration over this cut dismissal of a year of US diplomacy involving Israel, Egypt and the PLO, said Mr Shamir's declaration was "perplexing", given that the US had undertaken its peace efforts in response to an Israeli request to help implement Mr Shamir's own proposal for elections in the occupied territories.

US-Israeli relations are also under strain because of Mr Shamir's open support for new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, which Washington regards as both illegal and an obstacle to peace efforts. Unrepentant, Mr Shamir said he favoured large-scale settlement in the West Bank and Gaza, but regretted that this was impractical because funds were needed instead to absorb thousands of new immigrants from the Soviet Union in Israel proper. America has threatened to withhold \$400 million (£250 million) worth of housing aid if Soviet Jews are settled beyond the 1967 "green line".

Asked if Israel would release all or some of the 400 Shia prisoners held at Kham in southern Lebanon as part of a hostage deal, Mr Uri Lubrani, the leading Israeli official responsible for Lebanese affairs, said the country would consider such a step provided that Israel's own prisoners of war and soldiers of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army who were held by Arab groups were included in any exchange of prisoners.

Mr Lubrani denied that Israel was under pressure from the US, but added: "I think each country is obliged to look after its own interests where hostages are concerned." He said he did not believe that Israel would be blamed if an Israeli refusal to release Sheikh Obeid or other Muslim prisoners were to put the potential release of Western hostages in jeopardy.

*Haaretz* is likely to rise again. It may do so at a time when the news from behind what was the Iron Curtain is not there to keep it off the American television screens. Moreover, Mr Baker is not the only one tiring of the diplomatic dance. The Palestine Liberation Organization, too, is wearying of wearing a friendly face and fearing of internal threats to its authority if talking to the US achieves too little for too long.



Friends again: President Assad of Syria, left, and President Mubarak waving to crowds of well-wishers greeting the Egyptian leader's arrival at Damascus airport yesterday. The visit ended a 13-year rift between the countries

## Egypt and Syria end their feud

From Michael Theodorou, Nicosia

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt flew to Damascus yesterday for talks with President Assad of Syria on the first visit by an Egyptian leader since the two countries severed relations in 1977, when Cairo began to forge a separate peace with Israel.

The meeting was to discuss the faltering Middle East peace process, ways of achieving Arab unity, and calls for an Arab summit on the exodus of

Soviet Jews to Israel. President Mubarak arrived at 11am to a rapturous reception that included a 21-gun salute and a warm hug from the Syrian leader.

Their embrace, broadcast live by Syrian television, was a potent image that the rift between the two main Arab states involved in the Middle East conflict is over. A military band played the national anthems of the two countries

## Arab rivals halt attacks in press

Baghdad

IRAQ and Syria, whose feud has divided the Arab world for decades, have agreed to stop attacking one another in the press as from yesterday. The decision had been taken by Baghdad and Damascus at the request of Mr Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, an Arab diplomat said.

Mr Arafat yesterday confirmed that efforts were underway to patch up differences between Iraq and Syria. "I hope... Assad will participate in the Arab summit," he said during a visit to Abu Dhabi.

The Palestinian leader left Baghdad on Tuesday after a visit to Iraq in the course of an Arab tour to promote the idea of the Baghdad summit, which is likely to be held this month. President Hussein of Iraq has backed the summit call to discuss what he termed "grave threats facing pan-Arab security". (Reuters)

as hundreds of people waved Syrian and Egyptian flags.

President Mubarak's visit marks another step in Syria's slow rehabilitation in Western eyes at a time when its arch-enemy, Iraq, has lost support because of its alleged attempts to smuggle weapons components and its threats to use chemical warfare in the event of an Israeli nuclear attack.

The visit also came just two days after a second American hostage was delivered to freedom through Damascus. Syria received praise from Washington for helping to secure his release, and is said to be as committed to winning freedom for the four British hostages as it is for the six remaining Americans.

Syria has recently begun to tone down its anti-Israeli rhetoric and has signalled a willingness to discuss the Golan Heights issue with Israel.

These signs of flexibility are attributed to Moscow's insistence at the end of last year that it would no longer finance Syria's dreams of achieving strategic parity with Israel. President Assad felt his isolation even more acutely when Washington gave Cairo a big role in mediating between Israel and the Palestinians.

Syria and Egypt, which were united between 1958 and 1961 and which fought together in three wars against Israel, have had a long and stormy relationship which reached its lowest ebb in November, 1977, when Anwar Sadat, the late Egyptian President, flew to Jerusalem to begin a peace process that resulted in the Camp David treaty. But neither Egypt's peace nor Syria's hostility have resulted in a Middle East settlement.

There was never personal antipathy between President Mubarak and President Assad, both former fighter pilots whose paths crossed first at an Egyptian air base and later in Moscow. But deep personal rifts remain between other important players in the Arab world. Diplomats in Cairo said President Mubarak would try to end the potentially explosive animosity between President Assad and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The Syrian President has also been at odds for years with Mr Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Despite this, the PLO welcomed the rapprochement between Cairo and Damascus in the belief that a united Arab front would strengthen the Palestinian hand in dealings with Israel.

Mr Arafat has called for an Arab summit to discuss ways of countering the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel. About 35,000 have arrived so far this year and the figure is expected to rise to a million in the next five years. Arab leaders fear many will be settled in the Israeli occupied territories.

JERUSALEM NOTEBOOK by Richard Owen

## Sounds of discord as emigrés flood to the Promised Land

Deep confusion seems to surround the vexed subject of Israeli censorship and Soviet immigration. In February, 25,000 Soviet Jews pouring into Israel in dramatic numbers and the Arab world mobilizing to reduce or halt the new exodus, Israel's military censor declared that all material relating to Soviet Jews had to be submitted to censorship.

Because of the outcry – as much from the Israeli media as from the foreign press – government officials "let it be known" that only two aspects were really "sensitive": the number of Soviet Jews being allowed out, and the routes by which they were arriving in Israel. Such information, it was said, was potentially useful to Arab terrorists intent on disrupting the flow of immigrants, especially those wanting to settle in the occupied territories (which in practice very few have).

The censors had reckoned without the rebellious nature of the Israeli press, not to mention the fact that few of the Government's own ministers seem able to resist a microphone or a television cam-



Zubin Mehta: Flying the flag for high musical standards

Much of the great "national debate" on immigration revolves around how to create new jobs and whether to set up "tent cities" to provide the new immigrants with temporary housing. As in the early days of the Jewish State. But there is a new

headache for Israeli planners: what to do with the estimated 2,000 musicians (and rising) among the newcomers. According to the Ministry of Education and Culture, Israel already has enough newly arrived refugees from Soviet symphony orchestras to make up 20 new orchestras.

Russian oboe players, pianists and violinists are having to find new niches in provincial Israeli orchestras from Haifa to Beersheba, often at low salaries, and certainly with none of the perks automatically given to the Soviet cultural elite.

Hundreds of talented players are filling slots in municipal police bands, or teaching music at schools in "development towns" in remote regions which do not boast music conservatories. A further handicap is the notoriously limited Soviet repertoire and old-fashioned Soviet techniques.

Standards as the best European orchestras.

Last month, Mehta took the Israel Philharmonic to Moscow to show the Russians how it should be done. Ironically, many of his players are former Soviet Jews who have been successfully "absorbed" and are returning to Moscow for the first time – as Israelis rather than Russians.

One of the stranger aspects of all this is that anyone who has reported from Moscow is seeing faces once familiar from Soviet human rights protests popping up again in the quite different Middle East context of Israel – and quite often still protesting.

"Once a dissident, always a dissident," as one Soviet activist recently said of Mr Natan Sharansky, the leader of the Soviet Jewish group, Zion-ist Forum, in Israel.

And there is scope for Russian disillusionment. Israeli shops are fully stocked, there are no queues, and freedom of speech is taken to excess. But Israeli bureaucracy is at least as bad as its Soviet counterpart and housing and jobs

are in chronically short supply, while the conflict with Palestinians creates a tense atmosphere.

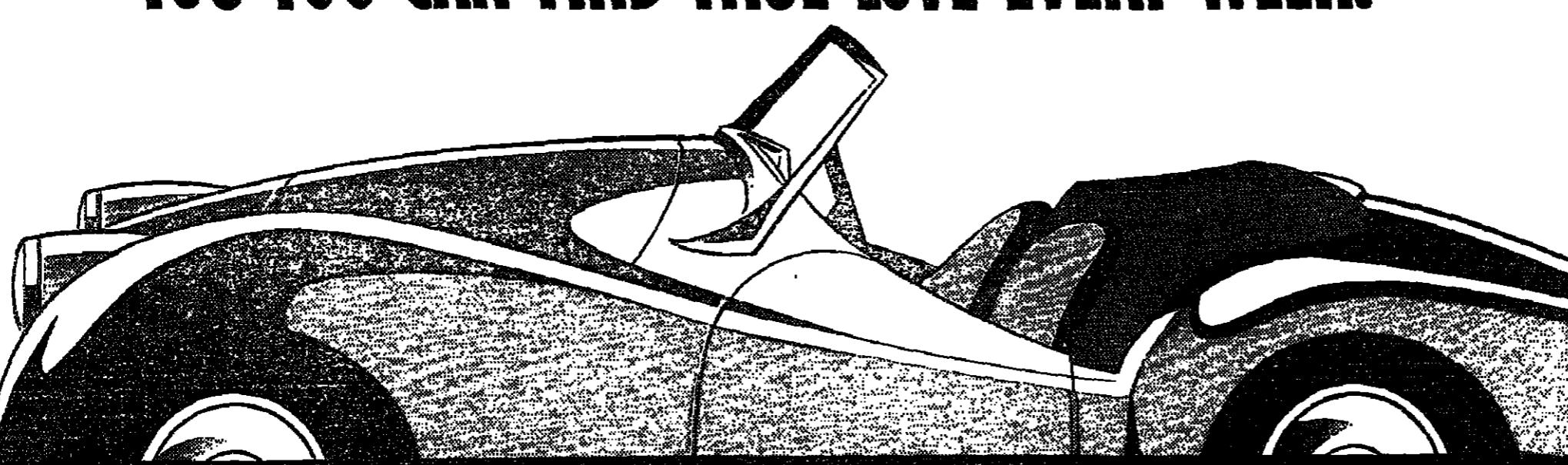
Ida Nudel, another prominent former prisoner of Zion, went so far as to accuse the Israeli authorities of deliberately holding up "a million and a half Soviet Jews who want to come here" because Israel knows it simply cannot cope. Professor Yirmiyahu Braverman, who has set up a high-technology firm to employ newly arrived Soviet scientists, also complained bitterly about the lack of an absorption "master plan".

Those Russians who have made it to Israel and have stayed are adding to the extraordinary kaleidoscope of Israeli society by making and marketing colourful new Russian products for other Israelis such as Oriental Jews to sample. One Soviet-born scientist in Haifa has just produced a kosher variety of caviar, and fruit-flavoured vodkas have proliferated on supermarket shelves – ideal perhaps to sip while watching the new Russian language subtitles on the early-evening Hebrew television news.

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# Thousands join Hindu rally against Pakistan

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

HUNDREDS of thousands of chanting Hindus descended on central Delhi yesterday, waving saffron flags of militancy in a stunning outburst against Pakistan's supposed interference in secessionist wars in Kashmir and Punjab.

The protest was designed to demonstrate the unprecedented political might of orthodox Hindu leaders after this show of strength there can be no doubt that their movement for Hindutva (Hindu-ness) has reached the masses.

The crowds were whipped up by fervid *sadhus* (holy men) with gaily-painted faces and dressed in saffron robes, and by politicians bellowing from hundreds of loudspeakers strung from trees, poles and fences over an area of several square miles.

The protest was as much as Muslim countries in general as much as Pakistan in particular. Speakers said Saudi Arabia, Iran and other governments were aiding Kashmiri Muslim separatists. The crowds yelled anti-Muslim slogans, sending a chill through India's 100 million-strong Islamic population.

Kashmir valley Hindus, known as Pandits, were present, too. They have been driven from their homes and jobs under threat from Muslim militants; it is their plight that adds such a tragic personal dimension to the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in the beleaguered valley.

For all the reports of bombings and shootings, there are signs that India's massive security operation is bringing the valley under control. There is widespread talk in government circles of launching an early political initiative if the relative calm continues.

"The Government is ready to admit that mistakes were made in the past," a senior official said. "It is prepared to discuss change. The mood in Kashmir has moderated a great deal since January, when ordinary people felt that India was losing control of the valley. It is now realized that there can be no question of seceding to Pakistan or becoming independent, because if India ever lost Kashmir the rest of the country would split apart."

The mass demonstration was organized by the right-

## Norway wants to restart whaling

From A Correspondent, Oslo

NORWAY is in effect to seek a resumption of commercial whaling after a moratorium of almost five years, ministry sources confirmed yesterday. The move is set to provoke the wrath of conservation and animal-rights groups.

After pressure from American conservationists, Oslo agreed in 1986 to join the moratorium recommended by the International Whaling Commission (IWC), a self-regulatory body whose decisions carry great moral and scientific authority but are not legally binding on members.

The commission is to hold its annual meeting in The Netherlands in July, and it is there that Norway will press for the removal of the small minke whale from the list of protected species.

The decision, which has not yet been officially announced here, was made after five-year, £10 million research programme into whale stocks by the Norwegian fisheries and environment ministries in 1988. Although far from complete, the survey - which is meant to cover the equally

controversial animal-rights issue of sealing - shows, according to Norwegian scientists, that minke whale populations have been seriously underestimated since the 1950s at least.

Estimates of 20,000 animals in Norwegian waters have been amended to 77,000: more than sufficient, the Norwegians insist, to justify the resumption of commercial whaling. The IWC had planned to review its moratorium at the July meeting.

The United States, Britain and Ireland are expected to press for an extension of the ban. Pressure from the Nordic countries - both Iceland and the Danish Faroe Islands were previously keen whalers - to resume commercial whaling would almost certainly provoke political reprisals.

American conservationists have consistently lobbied for bans on Nordic fish imports if those nations failed to mend their ways.

Norway, moreover, has been accused of dumping farmed salmon on the US market at giveaway prices in recent years.

## Satellite sex films anger Alabama

From Charles Bremner  
New York

IN a case that sets an ominous precedent for the satellite television industry, a prosecutor in Alabama is trying to extradite the directors of a New York broadcasting company to face criminal charges for transmitting sexually explicit films from space into his county.

The prosecution, which is the first to pit information age technology against 19th century obscenity laws, has already driven the Home Dish Satellite Corporation out of business and dragged in some of America's largest telecommunications conglomerates, including GTE, Spacenet and Hughes.

The affair began when Mr Jimmy Evans, the Montgomery County Prosecutor, who is running for election to the office of state Attorney-General, declared war on smut. He found that 30 local residents were watching the Tuxedo Channel, which features "R-rated" films - those with mild erotic content - and 22 were subscribing to the Extasy Channel, which transmits hard-core sex films. The directors of Home Dish, who had never set foot in

Alabama, were then indicted by a Montgomery grand jury under local obscenity laws.

Several big communications companies that carry the Home Dish signal across America and beyond immediately dropped it, forcing the flourishing New York company to close. Mr Evans has now applied to Mr Mario Cuomo, the New York state Governor, for the directors' extradition to his state.

Defending Home Dish, Mr Norman Dorsen, the president of the American Civil Liberties Union, said: "It is shocking to think that Alabama could reach out and chill free speech in all 50 states."

The case is already sending a chill through the offices of the big satellite network which transmit films to over half of American households. "If there's any kind of trouble with Tuxedo, there's potential trouble for all the major cable companies like HBO, Cinemax and the Movie Channel," Mr Dorsen, who is himself acting as a defence lawyer, told *The New York Times*. All those companies regularly broadcast films with an "R" rating. The



A radiant Mrs Paolotto with her daughter, Elke, at their Queensland home

## Bubble baby beats the odds

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

A NEW world has opened up for Mrs Debra Paolotto. She has defied medical opinion and the allergy that imprisons her in a sealed, sterile bubble to give birth to a full nine-month term.

Until daughter Elke's arrival last week, Mrs Paolotto, aged 26, a former Australian beauty queen, lived alone in a room coated with porcelain at the home of her parents-in-law in Queensland. Doctors say exposure to toxic crop sprays as a child has left her with an allergy to the 20th century.

Elke was born into the arms of her father, Mr Christian Paolotto, aged 26, in the protective bubble room after a 20-hour labour. However, it will be another four weeks before medical tests reveal whether Elke has inherited her mother's allergy and will have

to lead a similarly sheltered life.

Mrs Paolotto's isolation ended after her health improved enough for her husband to move into her room. Before that they had barely been able to touch. But Mr Paolotto still has to wash himself with bicarbonate of soda before entering the room.

Other precautions include shielding Mrs Paolotto from light bulbs and the television set with layers of glass.

She avoids books because of her reaction to the ink, and must keep to a diet of 30 basic foods. She can only dress in natural materials like silk and cotton.

It is hoped the family may one day be able to move to more natural surroundings, possibly a rainforest in north Queensland.

Medical briefing, page 18

## Rebel attack on Cristiani house

San Salvador

LEFT-WING Salvadorean rebels launched an offensive yesterday, attacking the homes of President Cristiani and a Cabinet minister and firing rockets at the national electoral headquarters. The President was *unhurt* in the early-morning onslaught.

However, Major Mauricio Cáceres, an armed forces spokesman, told reporters that an *ally* Captain and two policemen were killed in fighting in the area. The offensive by rebels of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front was the first big attack in the Central American nation since last November, and coincided with peace moves between the rebels and the Government.

Major Cáceres said the rebels attacked the President's residence with rifle fire. More than 70,000 Salvadoreans have died in the 10-year civil war. Rebel representatives said on Monday that peace talks tentatively scheduled with the Government for today had been postponed so that both sides could present proposals to Señor Alvaro de Soto, the United Nations mediator in Mexico.

Military aid to El Salvador from the United States has been running at more than \$1 million (£600,000) a day, but the US House of Representatives foreign affairs committee has recommended cutting it by at least half if an investigation into the murder of six Jesuit priests during the November offensive is not seriously and professionally conducted.

Major Cáceres said the rebels also attacked targets in the eastern town of San Miguel and the central town of San Vicente in yesterday's offensive, causing at least one death. Emergency services said the rebels also blew up several electricity pylons in San Salvador. (Reuters)

during a series of attacks in the exclusive Escalón area in the north-west of San Salvador. Rebels also launched a rocket attack against the private home of Señor Mauricio Stubb, the Public Works Minister, and the headquarters of the Central Electoral Council. Fighting also erupted near the Sheraton hotel in Escalón, but Major Cáceres said that he could give no details.

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## LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Today's local elections are about the running of Britain's cities, towns and county districts. They are not a public opinion poll. They are not meant to be a judgement on Mrs Thatcher, on her Government at Westminster, or on the vexed matter of the poll tax. They are to select the men and women who are to run local administration.

Those of all political persuasions who treat local polls as surrogate general elections are merely playing the centralist game. They are enemies of local democracy and fall into the trap which many, including some in the present Government, have set for them. This trap is constantly to discredit localism in politics and remit its freedom of manoeuvre to Westminster and Whitehall.

Local government, once Labour's pride and joy, has for the past quarter century been its Achilles' heel, and Mr Neil Kinnock knows it. He has often pointed up the corruption and incompetence of local Labour parties to strengthen his central power base. His reformist zeal has not been confined to his national executive, but has embraced also the structure of local parties and their relations with the unions.

Mr Kinnock has also cultivated some of the more astute local city leaders, such as Mr David Blunkett of Sheffield and Lady Hollis of Norwich. In towns such as Newcastle, Birmingham and Southampton a new "municipal socialism" has been proclaimed, clean, efficient, enterprising and customer-friendly. City leaders are ready to work with the private sector, with European agencies, even with the Government's once-hated urban development corporations. They have joined the older American cities in recognizing that urban renewal must depend on ideological compromise and on partnership.

Yet Labour can still – astonishingly – fight an election with far-left Liverpool, Manchester, Calderdale, Hackney and Brent comfortably under its banner. Squid housing estates, politicized schools, filthy streets remain a monument to what remains the essence of Labour in power, the relentless, apparently helpless, appeasement of public sector unions.

## TWO PLUS FOUR

A phrase coined by Sir Karl Popper should ring in the ears of the statesmen converging on Brussels and Bonn for Nato meetings and the opening skirmish between the two Germanies and the four occupation powers. Freedom, the philosopher wrote, is not the outcome of anonymous historical processes but rests "with our watchfulness with our efforts, with the clarity of our conception of our aims, and with the realism of their choice." It is the last of those phrases which should reverberate as the "two-plus-four" talks face what could be the first real test of allied nerve since the world turned upside down last November.

Those who guide the fortunes of Nato must close their ears to many of the illusions about defence, deterrence and the future of Europe which are now proliferating. Many European politicians are starting to talk not of the end of history, but of the end of defence. The connections between national interests, safety, diplomacy and the possession of military force scarcely seem to exist in public dialogue. Its role in securing western values in the first four decades of the post-war era is lavishly praised – and dumped in the dustbin of history. Longings have revived for multilateral talking shops, which would stretch from Vancouver to Vladivostok and yet be expected to take decisive action against threats to democracy.

Realism has never been more important. Force remains necessary, not as an instrument of policy but as an insurance. Save for those who believe that Nato should enter into the spirit of the moment and self-destruct, the nature of German participation in Nato is the issue on which all else depends. The assurances from both sides of the West German political spectrum that Germany will remain in Nato beg two main questions: the status of what is now East Germany and the type and quantity of men and material which Nato can deploy.

## CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE

The Police Complaints Authority's attack on the secrecy of the police complaints procedure coincides with the publication of a *Which?* survey showing widespread lack of public confidence in it. *Which?* declares that almost four out of ten people do not think there is any point in complaining about bad behaviour by the police. Since public confidence is a prior condition for the administration of justice, this is a serious matter.

The survey confirms what was shown by the Operational Policing Review published in March, that most people asked whether they are satisfied or dissatisfied with the police, elect for the former. However, there is a mass of detailed dissatisfaction concealed behind this. Those, for instance, who had recently had dealings with the police were less satisfied than those who had not.

Lack of public confidence is precisely the issue at which the recent controversy over an "officer class" in the police was directed. The Home Secretary should now look more urgently for radical ways of improving the quality of leadership, especially at the most senior levels, and should not be impressed by the traditional police view that the only route to the top must be from the very bottom. The romantic idea of a chief constable once having done his time as a bobby on the beat is offset by the knowledge that he will also, therefore, have done his time in the staff canteen, exposed to the notorious "canteen culture" where blacks are blacks and women are women, and both should know their place.

Most people have little contact with the police, and would like more – of the right sort. The March review drew attention to the disparity between what the public wants – a visible preventative role in the community –

No resident of modern Camden will be persuaded that the forces which destroyed Lord Callaghan's Government in 1979 have been diminished in the slightest.

Mr Kinnock's party fiercely resisted all efforts by the Government to curtail the power of these local unions. These attempts included breaking up the housing estate empires, forcing councils to put their cleaning and other services out to tender, stopping neighbouring councillors giving each other jobs and using ratepayers' money for political ends. Exotic local spending on nuclear-free zones and holidays for "sexually disadvantaged" staff may not be widespread, but showed a contempt for the public money of which Labour asks today to be made custodian.

Tory rate-capping over the past five years has made local Labour parties, if anything, even more irresponsible, but that is not the point. Unbridled municipal socialism is a conspiracy against efficiency and in favour of corruption. Where socialism can show a more humane face, as in certain "moderate" northern cities, this owes much to the enforced competence insisted on by a Conservative government.

Mrs Thatcher's cynicism towards local democracy should therefore be separated from Thatcherism's impact on local government itself. The latter has brought a desperately needed realism to many council administrations. Authorities such as Bradford and Wandsworth are not just cosmetically efficient. Incoming Tory parties had to struggle against the most entrenched union interests to reduce waste and offer a better service to the public.

Certainly Toryism knows its own corruptions – notably in planning – but local government is primarily about the allocation and administration of resources. Tory councillors tend to be more committed to careful management, to government as an impartial regulator and enabler rather than as a defender of interest and a builder of bureaucratic empires. As guardians of this corner of the welfare state, Tory councillors offer better value for money.

## Keeping control in a wider Europe

*From the Editor of New European*  
Sir, it seems to be assumed by Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand in particular, that the way to contain the enlarged Germany that will emerge from reunification is to fix her firmly into a substantially more integrated European Community than exists at present. This was certainly the message coming out of the Dublin Summit (report, April 30) and from the statements of both the chancellor and the president (report, April 27).

A moment's reflection would reveal that the major concern of most of Germany's neighbours is the possibility of the re-emergence of a Germany military/industrial complex of enormous superiority at the heart of Europe.

The way to deal with that is not primarily through the Community, but through Nato. Manfred Wörner, its new German secretary-general, has recently suggested that Nato, rather than concentrating on a single enemy as it has had to do for the duration of the cold war, should create a new security system which could prevent, as far as technically and humanly possible, the emergence of any new militarism anywhere in Europe – in his own words:

a security structure in which military forces would guarantee defence but never be deployed or be configured in such a way that they could ever hope to carry out an attack – particularly a surprise attack or one involving large-scale, terrain-seizing operations.

This is the kind of institution we should be getting Germany locked into; indeed, we should all be getting locked into it, for there is not a nation in the world in which a tyrant could not arise.

It might be argued that locking Germany more firmly into a European superstate would have the effect of controlling her economic, as opposed to her military, might. But surely it is much more likely that her economic strength would almost automatically dominate such a superstate.

It would seem to be much more sensible to hold back on excessive integration and to construct a balance economically within the somewhat looser Community as we have it at present between the enlarged Germany on the one hand and the rest of the Commun-

### Objective news

*From Mr Gerald Long*  
Sir, Observation inevitably modifies events. Responsible journalists, being conscious of this effect, try to reduce it to a minimum in news coverage, holding that their function is to report events, not to influence them.

The BBC does not share this view. The interviewers in its main news programmes on Radio Four have developed a style which is aggressive or tendentious, sometimes both, and seems designed to have the maximum effect on the course of conflicts in British society. During the *Strange Ways* affair the constantly-recurring question is: the use of force being considered? made the BBC the focal point of controversy, going far beyond the reporting of different opinions.

In a recent industrial dispute such questions as: is there new money on the table? made it seem

as if the BBC sought to become a forum of negotiation. Not infrequently, parties to the dispute replied that they did not propose to negotiate through the media, but this did not discourage the interviewers: the same question returned again and again.

Live interviewing on radio or television is journalism at its highest pressure; it can avoid being tendentious only through the application of intelligence and the exercise of moderation and restraint.

Some BBC radio interviewers, by no means all, are courteous and moderate, but restraint is almost always lacking; instead of being satisfied to report conflict, the BBC often simply transports it into the studio.

Yours sincerely,  
GERALD LONG,  
15 rue d'Aumale,  
75009 Paris, France.  
April 26.

### Clean beaches

*From Mr T. J. King*  
Sir, Although Minehead and Dunster appeared in your map (Heath, April 19) on potential beach hazards, your readers will not encounter any problems there. Wesser Water plc has invested over £1.2 million in a new sewerage treatment works, abolishing the sea outfall which has caused some pollution in the past.

The works came into operation last autumn. The Good Beach Guide listings are based upon tests taken last summer.

Yours sincerely,  
TIM KING (Tourism Officer),  
West Somerset Council,  
20 Fore Street,  
Williton, Taunton, Somerset.

April 26.

### Due difficulty

*From Mrs Norma Osmond*

Sir,

Can any reader offer advice on how to pay one's dues nowadays?

I cancel my personal AmEx card – the cost was exorbitant in relation to expenditure. I cancel my Lloyd's Access card, after the introduction of a £12 annual charge. I cancel the only other card up my sleeve – my Barclaycard – because the annual charge is to be £8 (report, April 25).

I go to my travel agent to settle a

bill of £400. "We don't take personal cheques; can we have your credit or charge card?"

The only cards left: a cheque card, and my building society cheque card with a guarantee of £50.

I don't often carry £400 in cash.

Should I now carry travellers' cheques? But then, there's the commission...

Yours faithfully,  
NORMA OSMOND,  
40 Stanhope Gardens, SW7.

April 25.

### Inside State schools

*From the President of the Secondary Heads Association*

Sir, I was delighted to read Mr Ivor Chapman's confirmation (April 21) that 95 per cent of pupils are, at heart, willing, pleasant and co-operative; but I can only assume that he has less experience than I of the independent sector (13 years as pupil, 13 years as teacher) if he seriously believes that the amoral few, capable of being an evil influence and disruptive of the education of others, only exist in the State sector. Granted expulsion is easier, but it is to the credit of independent schools that they, too, spend time on the difficult minority.

The report also raps police knuckles for not taking seriously enough the rules on the general conduct of enquiries. The rules exist to protect the rights of individuals, whereas the police tend to regard them as red tape, likely to get in the way of a successful outcome. Perhaps public opinion has itself been at fault, by demanding results in the fighting of crime which can be achieved only by short-cuts. But here again, the public need to be told the truth.

Everybody should reflect long and hard on the lessons of the Guildford Four case, and on the fiasco of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad. The drive for arrests and convictions at any cost may bring praise and congratulations at the time, but whatever short-term gain can be had by bending the rules, the harm to public confidence of a few spectacular wrongful convictions far outweighs it.

For Mr Roseblade's view (April 21) I have more sympathy, as my speech indicated (report, April 7)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Plans for Natural History Museum

*From Dr David L. Harrison and Dr Paul J. J. Bates*

Sir, As scientific visitors for over 60 years between us, we are amazed both by the proposals for the reorganisation of the Natural History Museum and by some of the misapprehensions reflected in your leading article (April 27).

Whole sections of the museum are faced with at least partial suspension, with scientific staff undertaking little or, in many cases, no research. Some individual staff members, many quite young, are faced with the prospect of spending the rest of their working lives doing little more than dusting shelves, in many cases with no prospect of advancement up the hierarchy.

Others, vastly experienced in their own fields of research, are being "retired". Apparently it is considered "esoteric" to study the taxonomy of "unfashionable" groups including, amazingly, mammals and birds. It is also supposed "esoteric" to try and understand the diversity of animal life, their relative abundance or scarcity, and heaven forbid, their evolutionary history.

Other definitely "non-U" subjects

include the study of natural extinction rates; climatic change as seen through the perspective eye of the palaeontologist; even these popular favourites, mammoths and *Archaeopteryx*, are to be abandoned.

It is ironic, now that the world has realised the importance of conservation, that the museum holding the greatest concentration of experts within all fields of natural history should be effectively curtailed.

Having been involved in advising both the Hungarian and the Czechoslovak governments, I can testify that there is a very great demand indeed for British expertise in these areas. So far, however, it does not seem as if we are doing as much as either the Germans, whose party foundations have made a considerable impact, or the Americans, who are putting an enormous amount of effort into advancing on the infrastructure of democracy.

It is to be hoped that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's "Know-How" Fund will be able to grasp the scale of the problem and ensure that Britain makes its appropriate contribution, not just to Poland, but to all the emerging democracies of the region.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID L. HARRISON (Director),

Harrison Zoological Museum,

Bowerwood House,

St Botolph's Road,

Sevenoaks, Kent.

May 1.

*From Dr Penny Wheatcroft*

Sir, Your leader of April 27 falls into the classic "King's new clothes" trap, assuming that any presented change is necessarily for the good. Its insidious sub-text is that the new Director of the Natural History Museum, Dr Chalmers, is valiantly battling against a frosty horde of "curators of the old school".

Nothing could be further from the truth. The museum's importance as an international centre of excellence in taxonomy and mineralogy continues in the face of inadequate Government funding and managerial hostility.

They have done much over the last five years to save the nation's treasures, but the aid is uncertain and haphazard.

The time has come for the Government to appoint a committee to review the whole question and to make recommendations, taking account of the single European market after 1992.

Yours truly,

PERTH (Chairman, Reviewing Committee on Export of Works of Art, 1972-76),  
14 Hyde Park Gardens Mews, W2.

*From Sir Hugh Leggatt*

Sir, I am not sure how it is possible to "list" works of art for export-control purposes as advocated in your leader.

The present protective system has valiantly staggered to stay alive on a hit-or-miss basis. In the last five years £20 million of treasures have been saved, but £80 million have left these shores, probably for ever. The Government's acceptance of art in lieu of death duties is not included in these figures, nor are the special grants for special purposes – both very welcome.

The issue involves many – the public and museums; the owners, who must be fairly treated; the dealers in art treasures; and, last but not least, the too many departments of the Government.

How then can one list such works if their existence is not known in the first place?

Yours faithfully,

HUGH LEGGATT, Leggatt Brothers,

17 Duke Street, St James's, SW1.

*From Captain R. K. Arthur*

Sir, As a Rotarian I applaud Mr Laurie's work in brightening bypasses with daffodils (April 28); but as a beekeeper I wish his Rotary club would plant crocuses instead. These would meet his needs because they have a wide colour range, flower earlier than daffodils, and are less easy for the lazy thief to pick. However, of more importance, crocuses, unlike daffodils, are one of the few rich sources of pollen early in the year.

Pollen contains the essential protein food for bee larvae and enables colonies to survive the winter in a fit state to continue their pollination service which, for mankind, is an even greater boon than brighter bypasses.

Yours faithfully,

R. K. ARTHUR (Honorary Treasurer, Littlehampton and Arundel Beekeepers Association), 18 Church Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex.

*From Mr C. J. Barker*

Sir, I have known for a long time what a swarm of bees in either May or June is worth. What is the worth of the swarm which arrived in one of our chimneys at lunch time today?

On enquiring of our local authority as to the means to have them removed without doing them any harm I was told to get in the queue behind the 18 people who had already reported swarms.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. BARKER, Mount Pleasant, Clopton,

Woodbridge, Suffolk.

April 30.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number – (01) 782 5046.

JOE SMITH (Consultant urological surgeon),

The Churchill Hospital,

Headington, Oxford.





# Human horrors

**THEATRE**

Benedict Nightingale  
**The Duchess of Malfi**  
The Pit

WHEN Shaw dismissed Webster as "the Tussaud laureate", he was right and he was wrong, awfully wrong. Yes, those mad princi-ples, corrupt prelates and thoroughly strumpets do belong in some Jacobean chamber of horrors. No, they are not made of anything remotely as bland and lifeless as wax.

The problems which this paradox creates for the director are especially strong in *Malfi*, where the characters vary from the lurid to the domestic. There is Duke Ferdinand, whose hobby is crawling into churchyards and clawing up corpses to eat. There is also his sister, the Duchess, who innocently provokes these bouts of lycanthropy by marrying her steward, Antonio. Socially mismatched they may be: you could not find a nicer couple in Kensington Palace itself.

The tilt of Bill Alexander's production is away from the gaudy and melodramatic, and as far towards the authentically emotional as anyone could sensibly swing the play. This works well when Harriet Walter's Malfi is on stage, since she is an actress who finds it impossible to become artificial or even to hide feeling.

Indeed, she interprets the Duchess as a woman who cannot bear the stress of sustaining a public face. From the start, you see her very pores seething with the effort of doing so. There is something innate in her that must resist those social totems and snobbish ta-

IVAN KYRICAL



Open and true: Harriet Walter as the Duchess of Malfi

# PROMS '90

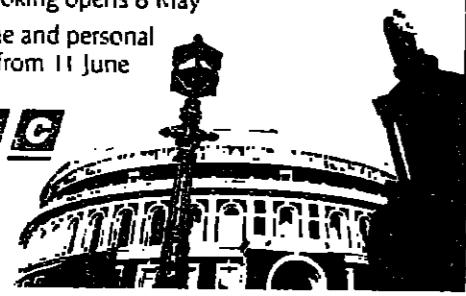
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# WARRY

SESSION ONLY THREE WEEKS LEFT

boos. She may express it with a rueful laugh, an uncomprehending plea, or sudden, fierce resentment: "Why may I not marry?" "The birds are happier than we, they may choose their mates." The emotional point is identical.

Walter remains wonderfully open and true, whether she is confessing her love to Mick Ford's genial Antonio — indeed grabbing his head and giving it a most unduchess kiss — or playing those near-impossible final scenes. After all, how does one plausibly react to seeing one's husband and son dangling from ropes? When Walter comes to that famous line, "I am Duchess of Malfi still", it is a gulp hawking from the intestines.

Unsurprisingly, the villains emerge more unevenly. As played by Stephen Boxer, the murderer Bosola has the shiny-eyed look of those vagrants you sometimes see shrilly denouncing obscure ills as they traipse down the street. You believe in his obsessive rancour more than in the self-doubt which, as it happens, makes him interesting.

The problem with his masters — those pristine Kray twins, Bruce Alexander's Ferdinand and Russell Dixon's Cardinal — is different. They share a sour pout, evidently a family trait. Dixon has some marvellously morose moments, and Alexander many quiet, tense ones. And certainly the latter exudes danger, the more so since the character cannot acknowledge the incestuous feelings at which the actor subtly hints.

But lycanthropy? Mauling corpses? For all of Alexander's weird and woody looks, you cannot credit anything so extreme. A price has to be paid for the director's realistic approach, and that is it.

IVAN KYRICAL

# Penderecki unmasked

Hilary Finch on a Polish opera company coming to the Brighton Festival, at which they present Penderecki's *The Black Mask*

**T**he Brighton Festival's timely focus on Eastern Europe this year was partly the result of some canny forward planning by its director, Gavin Henderson, and partly the happy consequence of the revolving wheel of political fate. But what began as an obvious marketing ploy has become, inevitably, a balancing act. Not until the last minute was it certain that the Polish State Opera of Poznan would present the British première of Krzysztof Penderecki's opera *The Black Mask*.

Now that agreement has finally been reached with Pagart, the beleaguered Polish Artists Agency (itself caught between the dying days of state control and the murmurings of new private enterprise), the Poznan Opera will open with a staged version of the Verdi Requiem on May 13, followed by *The Black Mask* on 15 and 18, and *Eugene Onegin* on 17 and 19.

Considered by many, Lutoslawski and Wajda included, to be the most exciting house in Poland, the Teatr Wielki in Poznan holds its own against the richer, grander and more widely trumpeted offerings of its counterpart in Warsaw. A sort of English National Opera to Warsaw's Covent Garden, the company balances mainstream box-office draws in what are, for Poland, less than traditional productions, with healthy measures of Polish and 20th-century works. Poznan was, however, the first Polish company to introduce operas sung in their original languages.

Mieczyslaw Dondajewski, the company's general and artistic director since 1978 (he will conduct *The Black Mask* in Brighton) has been responsible for Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc*, Britten's *Death in Venice*, a production of *Curlew River* in the City Museum and boundary-blurring music-theatre productions such as Falla's *La vida breve*, *The House of Bernarda Alba* and his own, uniquely Polish, Verdi Requiem.

On the basis that 40 per cent of his audience is made up of young people, he fixes the price of a ticket in accordance with the price of a bottle of beer. With 80 per cent

civic subsidies until now, this has not been difficult, though the high cost of printing and paper makes a programme as costly as a ticket, so the night out is not quite the bargain it may seem.

The company likes to boast its catalogue of firsts. Situated in history's partition-land, the Prussian-founded theatre declared that never in its history would it send out a single Polish word. In 1919, immediately after Poland regained independence, the opera company started up with Moniuszko's *Halka* and hasn't looked back. Szymborski's *King Roger* and *Harnasie* received their Polish premières here, as did *Prince Igor*, *Cosi fan tutte* and *Katerina Ismailova*.

*The Black Mask* will be sung in

German, since it was commissioned by the Salzburg Festival, where it received its world première in 1986. Penderecki has admitted to the weakness of the "whispering" quality of the Polish language for opera, and this is a particularly loud opera. Based on a surreal one-act play by Gerhart Hauptmann, it has become, in Penderecki's hands, a melodrama of considerable verbal and musical density.

The gradual dramatic revelation of the lurid past of a mayor's young wife, Benigna, takes place round a dinner-table in the winter of 1662: Penderecki's own well-rehearsed themes of religious and political tolerance are played out in a crescendo of guilt, retribution and reconciliation. Offstage orchestra, Renaissance band and balcony chorus add to the confusion in a piece which Penderecki insists must be *sempre brio* throughout — "especially in a small theatre".

For all its crude melodrama, its pastiche, its sprawling orchestration, a new impetus of rhythmic characterization and a forcefulness of ensemble-writing make it possibly one of the most stable and self-justifying of the major works of this chameleon of a composer.

Constantly entangled with his own need to revolt from both romanticism and sterile realism, Penderecki has shifted from the



Ewa Werka and Jannusz Temnicki in *The Black Mask*

violent avant-garde to the ritual dramatic, then on to the national sentimental, seemingly unable to develop any one style. In the 1970s, it seemed as if Penderecki the national figure would obliterate Penderecki the composer; but all that is now past.

He said farewell to political subjects with his *Polish Requiem* (championed by the Brighton Festival in 1984). Now, reluctant to be involved in contemporary issues, he sees Poland's future as depending on "whether people will start to work or not". "There is now less need," he says, "for artistic support. I would now like to be me, not merely to do what is expected of me."

Some things, though, are inescapably expected of him. Travelling and conducting 82 concerts last season alone, he had temporarily to put aside any regular composing routine.

His next opera, *Ubu Roi*, begun in 1971, is still hanging over him unfinished; the première is due in July 1991, in Munich. "It is an attempt to write *opera buffa* and I'm turning to pastiche. It will be myself in a mirror."

He has also signed a contract with the Berlin Opera for an unspecified new work. "I thought of basing it on Shaffer's *Amadeus*, but it won't be too easy to quote Mozart . . ."

• The Brighton Festival begins tomorrow, running to May 27. *The Black Mask* is at The Dome on May 15 and 18, 7.30pm. Tickets are £5-£18. For information, contact Brighton Arts Information Centre, 111 Church St, Brighton BN1 1UD. (Tel: 0273 676926)

and this festival did nothing to dent the common view of Per Nørgård as the outstanding figure.

Two chamber pieces by him — *Lia* for clarinet, cello and piano, and *Syn* for brass quintet — were expertly made, alive and surprising, the brass piece enclosing a stately main movement between unassuming book-ends performed with mutes and suggesting a broken triadic harmony.

Among composers of the next generation, the normally engaging Poul Ruders was represented by a 20-minute assault of solo percussion playing. *Towards the Precipice*, which at least proved the strength and stamina of the performer, Gert Sørensen, and Bent Sørensen offered two pieces. *The Lady of Shalott*, an intricate mediation for solo viola based on the John William Waterhouse painting in the Tate, intriguingly widened the prospect of a modernist Danish Pre-Raphaelitism which other works by this fine composer have suggested.

But *Popsonge* presented a quite different paradox: of ironically brutalized lyrics by Michael Strunge set in the most delicate style for lyric tenor (Ole Hedegard) and piano. The Ligeti part of the festival included a stimulating concert by the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra under Elgar Howarth, with Erling Blöndal Bengtsson at once keen and cool in the Cello Concerto and Volker Banfield rattling through the Piano Concerto with extraordinary clarity and nimbleness.

# Watching the radio for a laugh

**TELEVISION**

Sheridan Morley

A FORMER BBC TV comedy chief once solemnly explained to me that he always tried to avoid showing any of his series to critics, since they were precisely the kind of clever-clog people likely to mess up his ratings with hostile comments. So it is fair to assume that messages will have to be sent to that particular corridor of Television Centre in some form other than newspaper.

Something is going horribly wrong there. As a result, we now have, under the control of the man doubtless known in Corporation Speak as H. Tel Jokes, some of the unfunniest sit-coms and stand-up comics and mimics even in recent television history.

On ITV, the comic relief is a good deal better at present, so it is not surprising that the new Imelda Staunton series *Up The Garden Path*, about an overweight school teacher manically in love with a recalcitrant and deeply-married pottery master, should have got off to a flying start last night for Thames. Not surprising, that is, until you realize that it used to be a BBC series, which the remarkable Miss Staunton has been playing for a couple of years on radio. By general reckoning, that is where most of the best broadcast comedy of the 1980s has originated.

So oblivious, apparently, is Television Centre to what happens a few miles east in Broadcasting House, that most of the best writers and scripts are regularly allowed to escape over the wall to ITV. No fewer than three producers of *Spitting Image* have emerged from Radio Four's *Week Ending*. Why is the Corporation so regularly unable to translate its most successful comedy talents from sound to vision?

Until that problem is resolved, the BBC will continue to provide ITV with a free supply of its best comic material. And it will not be resolved until Television Centre understands the importance of Broadcasting House as something rather more crucial to its existence than an impoverished cousin living somewhere down the Central Line with no cameras.

As things are, the funniest people on BBC TV are not usually trying to be comic at all. You could not invent Sir John Harvey Jones, even if you left a character actor for 20 years in the boardrooms of *Chancer*, any more than Lucy Lambton could have been created by Ealing Studios at their eccentric best. Last night, her architectural *Alphabet of Britain* (BBC 2) characteristically reached the letter T after only two weeks, without any sign of S, or that she has even worked out where A or Z might figure in the arrangement.

She has, however, found a complete and functional Masonic temple inside the Great Eastern Railway hotel at Liverpool Street, as well as the only Thai temple in the world with life-size wall paintings of Ronald Reagan and Colonel Gadaffi. It is situated in Wimbledon, which is presumably why there is also a traditional Thai temple painting of Mrs Thatcher in a neat blue suit sitting outside a thatched cottage with an alsatian at her feet.

Only Lambton could have looked as though this whole baroque monstrosity is precisely what she expected to find in a south London suburb.

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David Robeson  
Mixed

David Robinson reviews the latest cinema releases: *Sweetie*, *Internal Affairs*, *See You in the Morning* and *Nuns on the Run*

# Mixed bag, with a dusting of sugar

Jane Campion's first feature film, *Sweetie* (15, Chelsea Cinema, Camden Plaza), is the dark side of *Neighbours*: an absurdist tragedy of family life in Sydney working-class suburbia. Her characters are outwardly ordinary people who are quite incapable of rational relationships with one another.

Kay (Karen Colston), although she seems the sanest, has a neurotic terror of trees (which in the outcome proves to be justified) and a slavish obedience to the divinations of the tea leaves. She lives in a drab, untidy house with a drab, untidy backyard undefined by trees or any other greenery, and has stopped having sex with her docile boyfriend.

Their quiet lives are disrupted by the arrival of sister Dawn, known as *Sweetie* (Genevieve Lemon), accompanied by her spaced-out but sexually energetic junkie boyfriend. Dawn is seriously retarded, an overweight woman who still behaves like a vicious, spoilt child. The family circle is completed by Dad, still doting in some bizarre incestuous nostalgia, on Sweetie; and Mum, who has gone on walkabout into the wilderness after years of marital boredom.

Jane Campion is 35 and made her name with a handful of short films which, like *Sweetie*, probe the strange, tormented inner worlds of seemingly ordinary people. (A selection of these earlier works can currently be seen at the ICA in a season called "Wizards from Oz".)

She has an ability to juxtapose the comic and the awful, in exposing the horrors of family life. At the same moment we find ourselves laughing with Sweetie and at her; we are exasperated by her messy madness, yet equally appalled by the callousness and lack of understanding with which the others treat her.

Genevieve Lemon's *Sweetie*, by turns grotesque, demonic, comic, pitiable, is one of a whole finely calculated ensemble of performances by actors new to the screen — notably Karen Colston's perpetually anxious Kay, Tom Lycett as her daft, sweet, imperturbable boyfriend, and Jon Darling and Dorothy Barry as the

ultimate suburban parents. Jane Campion's eye for the bizarre is most notably evident in the impromptu dance at the jackaroo camp, and the catastrophic denouement — a spectacle of human helplessness.

Whether you like it or not (its premiere at Cannes last year turned into a contest between catcalls and cheers), *Sweetie* is a film unlike the rest — as distincively offbeat as a work by Jim Jarmusch.

The old cops-and-robbers film has been superseded by cops-and-cops, now that police corruption runs neck and neck with drugs as a staple thriller theme. *Internal Affairs* (18, Plaza 1) pits an officer of the Los Angeles Police Internal Affairs Department against a reptilian bent cop, who runs rackets on a massive scale and has a genius for psychological manipulation of his adversaries — including the investigator himself.

The English director, Mike Figgis, directing his first Hollywood film, gives pace, tension and (thanks to John A. Alonso's virtuous camerawork) atmosphere to an essentially conventional plot.

The central performances, too, are compelling enough to hide inconsistencies in their characters and behaviour: the Internal Affairs man veers capriciously between tough professionalism and neurotic breakdown.

**R**ichard Gere (interviewed below) reverts to the kind of unsympathetic role with which he began his career. As the best cop, he skilfully implies the deep pathological disorders underlying the killer cop's crimes, his dare-devilry and his compulsive sexuality. Cuban-born Andy Garcia manages to give charisma and conviction to his less promising part. As his partner in investigation, Laurie Metcalf's sourpuss and sexually ambivalent policewoman is an original characterization.

Written and directed by Alan J. Pakula and looking very much like autobiography, *See You in the Morning* (12, Warner West End) relates the traumas of affluent New Yorkers experiencing divorce and remarriage. Having

Considering that the main



An eye for the bizarre: Genevieve Lemon, in the strange, tormented inner world of *Sweetie*, is grotesque, demonic, comic and pitiable

gone through the collapse of what seemed like an ideal, two-child marriage, a successful psychiatrist (Jeff Bridges) marries a widow with two children and a terrible load of guilt about her recently dead husband.

Hearts are worn prominently on sleeves, as the film painstakingly — not to say ponderously — works through the problems of each of the characters involved (three parents, four children and a dog). Supplementary episodes take us painfully through the deaths of the second wife's husband and the first wife's mother.

There's no joke like an old joke; and *Nuns on the Run* (12, Odeon

Haymarket) runs resolutely through the whole repertory of drag gags. The story is very similar to *Some Like It Hot*. Pursued by Docklands Mafia and the Triads, patty gangsters Robbie Coltrane and Eric Idle seek sanctuary in a convent, disguised as

likable Camille Coduri (in the Marilyn Monroe part, as a myopic psychology student) into the story. The fun in the film lies mainly in the performances, and particularly the effect upon our heroes of taking the veil. While skirts make Idle skittish and coy, Coltrane finds his Catholic upbringing catching up on him, and enters seriously into the part, even struggling gamely to expand the Trinity ("it's a bit of a bugger, really") to his friend. The worldly, ill-tempered nuns have Janet Suzman as their Mother Superior and enduring octogenarian Doris Hare as the forgetful oldest inhabitant.

Written and directed by Jonathan Lynn, the film does not aim at subtlety. Here, predictably, are all the old gags about false bosoms and nubile convent pupae in the showers. The film shares with most contemporary, post-television comedy the fault of unrestrained garrulity, and the script never manages to integrate the

Marlboro part, as a myopic psychology student) into the story.

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Suzman as their Mother Superior

and enduring octogenarian Doris

Hare as the forgetful oldest

inhabitant.

## Carefully playing the system

**T**wo new films put Richard Gere back on to the A-lists, says Simon Banner

**C**ontrary to recent reports in the tabloid press along the lines of "Heart-throb star to quit movies", Richard Gere, whose films include *American Gigolo* and *An Officer and a Gentleman*, is not giving up his acting career in order to become a full-time Buddhist.

Since he met the Dalai Lama eight years ago in Nepal, Gere's somewhat improbable but deeply-felt involvement with Buddhism has steadily increased; at home in New York he is founding chairman of Tibet House, a cultural and educational centre which also raises money for Tibetan refugees. But Gere, who has just turned 40 and now has grey hair, still takes acting assignments and appears in two new films being released almost simultaneously.

The first is a bloody thriller called *Internal Affairs* (see review, above), directed by a Briton, Mike Figgis, on his first outing in Hollywood. Gere has played dislikable characters before — "There's a trick I can do," he says, "which is to take negative characters and make them palatable" — but none as apparently irredeemable as the crooked cop he plays in *Internal Affairs*. He says that when he first read the script he finished by throwing it across the room "because it was about such disgusting people".

The Dalai Lama apparently once asked Gere if it is true that when a character in a film is angry, the actor too is angry. He laughed very hard when Gere told him that yes, this was one approach. The lesson for Gere seems to have been to avoid letting his roles spill over into his life. "That saves me a lot of grief," he says. Yet he was so carried away shooting one scene in *Internal Affairs* that he ended up in hospital with seven cuts. That

particular take is not in the finished film, because the camera was out of focus.

By contrast to *Internal Affairs*, the other film, a shamelessly old-fashioned and surprisingly enjoyable romantic comedy entitled *Pretty Woman* (released in Britain next week), appears to have involved him in nothing more demanding than frequent changes of his designer suits and ties. Yet it is *Pretty Woman*, a sort of *My Fair Lady* for the Nineties, that has given Gere the hit he has so evidently needed in the last few years: the film took close to \$30 million in its first 10 days of release in the United States.

Since 1982 and the success of *An Officer and a Gentleman*, none of Gere's films has succeeded at the box office. Some, like Coppola's *The Cotton Club* and Sidney Lumet's *Power*, have been almost total failures. Others, such as the ill-fated, not to say ridiculous, Biblical epic *King David*, have been notorious embarrassments and have only hardened Gere's image as a pretty-boy actor out of his depth as soon as he leaves the bedroom. "No male star since *Rin Tin Tin* has spent more time on screen minus clothes," one viewer acidly observed.

Beyond making him a contender for those straightforwardly

charming Cary Grant-type roles that Hollywood finds so hard to fill, *Pretty Woman* will not change anyone's mind about Richard Gere, but it will at least ensure that the top studios' casting directors restore him to their A-lists. Gere himself admits to having had a sense that his credit was running out with Hollywood in the last few years: "It became time to take care of my career again," he says.

His own long-cherished projects include a film he plans to produce and star in, called *Imagining Argentina*, scripted by Christopher Hampton; and a big-screen adaptation of Martin Sherman's *Bent*, a play Gere first appeared in on Broadway 10 years ago. He would also like to do *Coriolanus* on stage. Gere expresses distaste for most of what Hollywood produces — he turned down *Die Hard*, for example, because of its extreme violence, and he rails against "the untimely clichés" of last year's comedy hit, *Working Girl*. *Pretty Woman*, he says, being at least "no pretense about being sociological". But he will continue to work within the system.

Gere says that an attempt to change Hollywood and capitalist movie-making would be useless. "You can't expect an apple to be a banana, can you?" he asks, and smiles an inscrutable smile.



Gere: An irredeemably crooked cop in *Internal Affairs*

## Pick of the proms

**R**ichard Morrison chooses the potential highlights of this summer's season

**T**here is always a certain frisson, bordering on gentle hysteria, on the day when the BBC unveils its new season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts. The traditionalists turn furiously to the end first, to check that British music's hallowed "dream ticket" (Elgar/Wood/Arne/Perry) is safely in place on the Last Night. It is. Then they tot up the number of Beethoven and Brahms symphonies (a bulky 10 this year), scour the pages of the Prospectus for the Vienna Night (August 27), and lament the uprooting — for the second year running — of Beethoven's Choral Symphony from the penultimate night.

Chauvinists deplore the presence of Poulenc when there is no Purcell. Modernists bawl "what, no Stockhausen?" early-music devotees search anxiously for appearances by the reigning gurus: Norrington, Pinnock, Eliot Gardiner. Finally, about 15,000 British composers raise a simultaneous shout of "fix!" because they are not among the half-dozen given a Proms commission by the BBC.

This year, the season (July 20 to September 15, Albert Hall) has a notably non-experimental look, especially in comparison with the weird and wonderful Proms of 20 years ago. Where the concerts of electronically-synthesized whale calls juxtaposed with 12th-century liturgical dance-dramas? John Drummond, Controller of Radio 3, might argue that it was precisely because last year's season avoided such esoteric pockets that it achieved a remarkable 85 per cent average attendance. Perhaps he also has his eye on wooing the commercial sponsors who are going to help finance the Proms in years to come.

Nevertheless, the season covers an enormous range of styles and repertoires, and the cost of a standing season-ticket for all 66 concerts (£95 arena, £70 gallery) is still less than that of a single top-price stalls ticket at Covent Garden. Since the season contains no fewer than six complete operas, that is an interesting comparison. With its spectacle of thousands of youngsters standing motionless and transfixed by sound, the Proms remains the greatest advertisement for classical music. Here is a subjective selection of 10 potential superlatives:

Most intriguing title: Mark-Anthony Turnage's recent orchestral piece is called *Three Screaming Popes* (July 31). As Simon Rattle, who conducts it, once memorably remarked: "not a work to tour Italy with."

Biggest jolt to the purists: A Russian performing Elgar's Cello Concerto, and on the viola? Lionel Tertis' transcription is expert; Yuri Bashmet is a superb player; diehard Elgarians need not fear (August 9).

Best lesson in precision: The Cleveland Orchestra (September 5, 6) is the ultimate exemplar of clipped, exact music-making: a marvellous tonic for two concerts, even if a whole season with it might prove exhausting.

Wittiest casting: Husky jazz chanteuse Cleo Laine as the "Voice of God" in Britten's *Noyes Fludde* (September 9).

Most sedate interpretation:

Mozart opera lovers brought up on

Böhm and Karajan may loathe

Roger Norrington's approach to

*The Magic Flute* (August 23). For the rest: high-speed revelation.

Jolliest Prom: Bank Holiday lunchtime (August 27) in Kensington Gardens, when the London All-Stars Steelband is borrowed from the adjacent Notting Hill Carnival.

Most sedate: Same day, two hours later, the vast cubic capacity of the Albert Hall will tingle with chamber music from just three players



Cleo Laine: The "Voice of God" in *Noyes Fludde*

the Beaux Arts Trio. However, as Churchill might have observed: some players, some music.

Checklist literary allusion: "Bonfires of Vanities" (August 20) turns out to be nothing to do with Manhattan *Anger*, but much to do with Medici weddings in the 16th century. Philip Pickett's fine New London Consort derives its programme title from the amusing medieval practice of burning those works of art deemed blasphemous. And sometimes the artists too. The world has changed little.

Wunderkind of the season: Russian pianist Evgeny Kissin plays Tchaikovsky's First Concerto (July 27). When this teenager performed the piece with the late Herbert von Karajan in Salzburg, the maestro was so entranced by the playing that he forgot to cue the flute's entry after the cadenza: rather a crucial error.

Most nostalgic evocation of the Sixties: Tippett's opera *The Ice Break* (July 23) was written in the early Seventies, but its general hypothesis that love can solve global problems, and its touchingly surreal use of slang (the chick is cool, man) places it firmly in the flower-power era.

Most intriguing title: Mark-Anthony Turnage's recent orchestral piece is called *Three Screaming Popes* (July 31). As Simon Rattle, who conducts it, once memorably remarked: "not a work to tour Italy with."

Biggest jolt to the purists: A Russian performing Elgar's Cello Concerto, and on the viola? Lionel Tertis' transcription is expert;

Yuri Bashmet is a superb player;

diehard Elgarians need not fear

(August 9).

Best lesson in precision: The

Cleveland Orchestra (September

5, 6) is the ultimate exemplar of

clipped, exact music-making: a

marvellous tonic for two concert

s, even if a whole season with it

might prove exhausting.

Wittiest casting: Husky jazz chan-

teuse Cleo Laine as the "Voice of

God" in Britten's *Noyes Fludde*

(September 9).

• The "Proms 90" prospectus is now

on sale (BBC Concert Publications,

£3). Postal bookings open next

Tuesday (Promenade Concert Box

Office, Albert Hall, London SW7

23. Tel: booking by phone (071-823

9998) and in person commences on

June 11.

## Romantic rhymes

**CONCERT**  
Noel Goodwin

Szymanowski Songs  
Purcell Room

**PIANIST** Iain Burnside hit upon a pretty conceit with which to end his short series of Szymanowski song programmes in the South Bank's celebration of "Poland's Last Romantic" children's songs. In a selection from the composer's *Children's Rhymes* of 1923, characteristics of Polish folk song were adorned with a veneer of harmonic sophistication in settings of nursery and nonsense verse.

They were ingeniously interspersed



# Middle-ageing middle England

**P**erhaps any relationship is a struggle, requiring the sort of daily diligence that is seldom successfully celebrated in fiction. Stanley Middleton's pace suggests this. He is a connoisseur of the mundane: describing a group of lonely people somewhere in the middle of England, preoccupied with the practicalities of the day and the minutiae of social interaction. The timing of morning coffee or the slipperiness of the roads become talking points of importance. So does the question of how one answers the telephone, greets a visitor, or responds to an invitation. All available conventions need to be explored before they are either rejected or selected, so a proposal of marriage is not very much more demanding than an invitation to tea. Changes and Chances is basically a study of middle age as it is lived by a single man in a large house, widowed schoolteacher, a supermarket manager and his wife. Later they are joined by an elderly poet, who enjoys their company enough to talk to them about his aspirations and the meaning of his work — conversations in which Middleton shows his greatest skill. Only one character, a boy in his early teens, stands outside this elderly group. He provides a measurement of the flatness of their expectations and, despite Middleton's care, the dullness of their world.

In Jeremy Cooper's *Us the Strangle* is more hectic. Alastair and Dinah have presented to the public eye a marriage that seems to be perfect — harmonious, elegant, and successful. For them "us-ness" is a real concept readily embraced as a life work. So when it begins to crack, the sound of its crumbling reverberates through

Anne Barnes on a middling Mr Middleton, the us-ness of a jolly perfect marriage, and some nasty mini horrors

**CHANGES AND CHANCES**  
By Stanley Middleton  
*Hutchinson, £12.95*

**US**  
By Jeremy Cooper  
*Hutchinson, £12.95*

**FLAMINGOES IN ORBIT**  
By Philip Ridley  
*Hamish Hamilton, £12.99*

**BOMBAY DUCK**  
By Farrukh Dhondy  
*Cape, £13.95*

the whole of Alastair's past life. He must fumble his way back through all the relationships he has ever had to find the root of this emotional unease. It is a complicated comment on the debilitating nature of the expectations set up by love and marriage. The trouble is that the whole situation is described with great seriousness from inside Alastair's head. The reader knows by about the second page exactly why love and women don't quite work out for him, and it is a frustrating experience to

plough through his increasingly lumpy utterances on his journey to self-knowledge without humour.

In contrast, Philip Ridley's stories in *Flamingoes in Orbit* compel attention because so much is left for the reader to fill in. Much of the nastiness of what happens in these mini horror tales is rooted in simple childhood scenes. Two small boys collect pictures of atrocities in Vietnam and gloat over them in secret. Others show greedy delight in spearing a dolphin with pitchforks. Menace lurks in the shady corners of family life — even in the seaside holiday or the buying of a pram — and leaps out from childhood to destroy the adult. There is a similarity in the themes of the stories which makes them seem like fragments of a novel. The same personality is sketched in different guises. And if these are sketches, the novel when it comes will be chilling.

Farrukh Dhondy also works in sketches, but here he has knitted them into a sprawling novel. In *Bombay Duck* he wants to explain what it is like to be an Asian in London and a Londoner in Asia. Acting as a sort of inter-cultural voyeur, he displays the lives of actors, journalists, shopkeepers, girls about town, and others from a variety of classes and countries. The story begins with a Caribbean actor taking part in a slanged up version of *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Edinburgh fringe. A perfect set-up for cross-cultural reference. The same man then assumes an Indian stage-name and departs to act out scenes from the *Ramayana* in the capitals of the subcontinent. An acquaintance then takes up the narration — a shadowy figure, both scholar and supply teacher, who



Stanley Middleton, a serious man, and the poet of provincial life

smuggles babies out of India for adoption in Earl's Court. These two central figures, striding confidently from west to east and back again, enable Dhondy to dwell on issues of culture and racism at whatever level catches his fancy. He raises the issue of Salman

Rushdie, (indirectly through a similar situation), or the racism in London schools, or the reason for fish being called *Bombay Duck* with apparently equal relish. It's not profound thought or clever narrative structure that he's after. For him the parade is the thing.

This is the eleventh novel by Anne Tyler, Pulitzer-prize-winning author of *The Accidental Tourist*. Maggie and Ira are in their late forties. As a couple they are not perfect, but are nevertheless united in bearing the cross of missed opportunity. Both from Baltimore's class of '56, he, tall, taciturn, and part Red Indian, really wanted to be a doctor but stuck around his father's frame shop to look after his inadequate family instead; she, small and plump, took a summer job at the Silver Threads Nursing Home and never left it.

"Mom? Was there a certain conscious point in your life when you decided to settle for being ordinary?" asks their daughter. The author answers the \$11-dollar question by moulding the routine of this long, row-filled, loving marriage into generous philosophy.

Going to the funeral of an old schoolmate's husband and sitting through a mawkishly resurrected film of the bereaved friend's wedding, bring vital moments in Maggie's past rushing back to justify her present condition: Ira, as usual, is sitting in another room playing cards with himself. The brief sensual drama that follows is Anne Tyler at her most moving. Anne finely ploughed memories recall Raymond Carver in their

## Mating à la modern modes

### PAPERBACKS

Tania Glyde

**BREATHING LESSONS**  
by Anne Tyler  
*Pan, £3.99*

imploring detail; the sheer power of this book is immensely comforting.

Where Anne Tyler makes minute household detail into a compelling record of humanity, Clare Harkness is not so successful. In *Time of Grace* (Black Swan, £4.99), two young girls meet at smart convent school, and become firm friends. Together they traverse the Sixties and Seventies,

meeting, mating, and marrying ever more impossibly unsuitable men.

As they trot towards middle age and book's end, the author suddenly throws in the suicide of one awful husband, the death of the other, the wedding-night heart attack of his ageing replacement, and the women's final glorious realization that they are in fact lesbians, whereupon they happily set up house together in Italy with their two beleaguered sets of children.

The story is told mainly in dialogue, often consisting of strangely inane and lengthy telephone arrangements. The men are an outrageously composite gang of violent and duplicitous bastards, while the women, still dangling from their unconventional family backgrounds, trail through life with a curious lack of self-determination. This book is about twice as long as it should be. Harkness has a talent for witty stereotyping but here it is so submerged as to be almost unquotable.

Green is fourth in the Storia paperback series of short fiction by women born since 1945. Invited to interpret the word in all its forms, most of these writers have chosen the disruption of nature, aka the status quo, as their theme. The best pieces in this very strong collection also contain an element of surprise. Mary Flanagan and Carole Hayman stab the second home idyll right in the heart, Flanagan especially with her deceptively gentle run-up. Patricia Eakin offers a unique view of the world that hovers deliberately between politics and proverbs. Sue Townsend fights to put idealism before rotten truth, and the Egyptian writer Salwa Bakr writes on the scourge of individuality. Helen Slavin fans our irritation with an excellent account of courtroom sexism. Despite the highly topical nature of the subject, these writers wave few axes without first ensuring that they have metaphysical and literary space in which to grind them.

Sara Maitland, biographer of Vesta Tilley and contributor to Green, seems at first to be no more than playing in the tide of female awareness, wallowing in lurid depths of feeling or simply taking cover behind bitter private truths. But the raw lack of self-consciousness of *A Book of Spells* (Minerva, £4.50) is quickly influential. Every story, monologue, and reinter-pretation gets its energy from a true gut reaction to life. The best example is "The Flower Garden", the story of a young, plain adolescent who feels so ugly that she plants flower seeds in her vagina. Equally arresting is the "Tale of the Valjan Demoiselle", based on the historical account of a 16th-century female castaway.

Violence and terror flow in smaller type, below the anodyne version of the story as told to a small girl too young to need to know about resilience. The cry throughout is gender-pain, the injustice endemic to female existence, transformed by the author's unusual ability to translate millennial preoccupations into singular fables.

## A blockbuster of laughs and giggles

Anthony Quinton

**THE OXFORD BOOK OF HUMOROUS PROSE**  
Edited by Frank Muir  
*Oxford, £17.95*

Gubbins's first name was Norman, but the Gubbins is his own.

The best book of this kind I know is the *Sub-Treasury of American Humour*, put together by E. B. and Katherine White. It is arranged thematically, where the Muir collection is roughly chronological. The latter is preferable; it shows development, and invites appropriate indulgence in a way the other does not. P. G. Wodehouse's *A Century of Humour* is a flat affair, arranged on no very evident principle.

An important virtue of Muir's book is that he has not been afraid to give suitably qualified humorists plenty of space. Dickens has 25 pages; Mark Twain 18; Wodehouse, rightly *victor ludorum*, 50. Mark Twain comes, unfortunately for him, after 50 pages of lesser Americans, from Seba Smith to Joel Chandler Harris, who rely on elaborate misspellings to convey dialect humour of a pretty woeful order. There is some fine American material in the book apart from Twain; Perelman (23 pp) and Thurber (15 pp), while Canada has Stephen Leacock, weighing in at 10 pages. As an equal-opportunity anthologist, Muir has felt constrained to give enormous representation to Australia and New Zealand, but not in a way to create a lasting appetite for it.

For a long time it seemed that Frank Muir had adopted a self-denying ordinance excluding parody. Thus Beerbohm is in with only a pleasant but faintly pallid essay, and with nothing whatever from the sublime *Christmas Garland*. E. B. White is there with a brief, good piece about Isadora Duncan's brother Raymond and an essay-type essay on the Model T, which Muir rightly describes as "a characteristic example of White's sly and almost imperceptible humour". The glorious parody of Hemingway — "Across the Street and into the Grill" — is too perceptible to leave out. Oliver Jensen's version of the Gettysburg address in the language of Eisenhower is not to be found. While we are on Americans: where is Woody Allen?

The collection begins with Caxton, items from "Jest Books", and a sermon-reliever from Latimer, the Oxford martyr. One ancient joke (1697) has quite an up-to-date Henry Youngman quality: a melting sermon being preached in a Country Church, all fell a-weeping, except a Country Man, who being ask'd why he did not weep with the rest? "Because" (says he) "I am not of this Parish."

Frank Muir's description of his role as tour-conductor rather than editor is entirely justified. Editors are allowed introductions and footnotes, and otherwise keep themselves to themselves. Frank Muir precedes such selection with a passage of italicized comment. These are helpful and informative. I was glad to learn that Nathaniel

## Of kerns and gallows-glasses well supplied

### CRIME

Marcel Berlins

**GALLOWGLASS**  
By Barbara Vine  
*Viking, £13.99*

£12.95). Ageing sculptress, member of the once-famous Portmeirion school of artists, crushed by her own partly-completed creation, her death curiously tied to the unexplained disappearance at sea nearly 40 years before of a fellow artist. Querulous survivors of the movement, grimly lingering on past glories, hold the secret, stylisedly exposed by Augustus Maltravers in Cornwall to see his lady friend perform theatre-by-the-cove. Sharp, witty, and a sure feel for brooding Cornish menace.

• *The Raphael Affair*, by Iain Pears (*Gollancz, £12.95*). The writer is a real-life serious art historian, applying his expertise to an enthusiastic crime debut. Izaias, an art thief squat chief Bottando, and his side kick Flavia, confront a young English academic claiming that a cheap Manzini recently stolen from an obscure Roman church makes a Raphael. It turns up with an English art dealer of questionable integrity, and its subsequent vicissitudes provoke violence and murder. A little less detailed art-histo data — no doubt interesting but not always plot-relevant — impedes the flow a little; but this is an impressive first, promising much.

• *A Tasty Way To Die*, by Janet Laurence (*Macmillan, £10.95*). Claire, part-owner of the chic Wooden Spoon cooking and catering company, eats a fatal mushroom, possibly meant for her partner Eve. Exuberant tale of gastronomic homicide, full of intriguing inside-knowledge info on mass feeding. Engaging chéfet, Davina Lisle, sleuths zestfully and there are even some helpful culinary hints along the way.

• *Rough Treatment*, by John Harvey (*Viking, £12.99*). Shambling, overweight, and emotionally damaged, Inspector Charlie Resnick looks deeper into inconsistencies in a victim's story of house robbery in Nottinghamshire, and uncovers an interlocking tale of missing cocaine, professional jealousies among second-rate television people, and adulterous passions. Jazz-loving Resnick is an original, his police colleagues unsterotypical; and Nottingham is surprisingly effective as a mean-street location for the wicked. A second novel more than satisfying the hopes raised by his starter.

• *Murder, I Presume*, by Gillian Linscott (*Macmillan, £10.95*). Dodge Victorian explorer struck dead by poisoned dart when about to reveal nasties about a fellow traveller's behaviour on a source-of-the-Nile expedition. Possible perpetrators include wives of rival explorers with competing theories. Well researched, good period feel, and a clever solution.

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## PREVIEW

TODAY Opera, Dance &amp; Books • FRIDAY Classical Music • MONDAY Art &amp; Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre &amp; Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz &amp; World Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

OPERA  
Barry Millington

## LONDON

**LA CENERENTOLA:** Fans of Agnes Baltsa may find something to enjoy in Michael Hamer's Salzburg Festival production of Rossini's Cinderella story. Alison Fraser takes over from Tuesday. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. WC2 (071-240 1068). Tonight, Sat, Sun, 8pm, Tues, 7.30pm, £2.50-£32.

**THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO:** Popular production of Mozart's masterpiece returns to the ENO under the baton of Michael LEONARD recently appointed Assistant to the General Director. English National Opera, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-636 3161). Tonight, Sat, 7pm, £3-£33.

**MACBETH:** Another ENO Verdi production to make the sparks fly. Jonathan Summers and Kristine CASMIER are the couple steep'd in the notorious green blood. ENO (as above). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £3-£33.

**IL TRAVATORE (Verdi):** Piero Fagioli's production previously got the critical thumbs-down, but returns with a strong cast, including Vaness, Leiferkus, Steinkopf and Randava. ROH (as above). Mon, 7.30pm, £2.50-£32.

**NATIONAL OPERA STUDIO SHOWCASE:** Two staged performances of operatic excerpts given by budding talents. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Sat, Sun, 7pm, £4-£10.

## OUTSIDE LONDON

**MERRY WIDOW (Léhar):** Slightly stiff Opera 80 production, but stylishly sung. Theatre Royal, Brighton (0273 28488). Tonight, Sat, 7.30pm, £4.50-£12.50. Arts Theatre, Cambridge (01223 32000). Tues, 7.30pm, £3-£14.

**L'HEURE ESPAGNOLE/GIANNI SCHICCHI:** Ravel/Puccini double bill, with Andrew Shore outstanding in the latter. David Lloyd-Jones conducts. Opera North, Palace Theatre, Manchester (061 223 9922). Tonight, 7.15pm, £4-£22.

**LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR:** Bunty Christie's simple but effective designs form an atmospheric backdrop for Donizetti's treatment of Scott Opera 80, Theatre Royal (as above). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £4.50-£12.50. Arts Theatre (as above). Wed, 7.30pm, £3-£14.

**OPHRHEUS AND EURYDICE (Gluck):** Highly commended conducting by Clive Times, with Sally Burgess and Jane Leslie MacKenzie in the title roles. Opera North, Palace Theatre (as above). Tomorrow, 7.15pm, £4-£22.

**BEATRICE AND BENEDICT (Berioz):** Enterprising student venture under the baton of Alexander Plett. Cambridge University Opera Society, University Music School, West Road, Cambridge (0223 325000). Tomorrow, Sun, 7.30pm, £5-£8.

**THE MAGIC FLUTE (Mozart):** Charles Farcombe conducts the London Opera Players. St Tel's Church, Lantillo Crossness (081 685 267). Tomorrow, 7.45pm, £7-£10.

DANCE  
John Percival

**TURNING WORLD:** International dance season Hervé Jourdet from France offers his new *Danse Marguerite* (tonight); Australian Shelly Lasica in her solo *Now* with American Ruth Barnes in *Ritourné*, a new treatment of the Orpheus myth, plus Spanish María Antonia Oliver (tomorrow) and Dutch Angelika Oei (Sat). Joachim Schorner

## Getting the mix right

EMMANUELLE JACQUOT



involving a wide and interesting range of artists.

Humberstone College of Higher Education, Queen's Gardens, Hull (info: 0482 44050 ext 2115). Today until Sat.

**ANNE GRIFFIN: Gloria Presents**

*Ariadne*. The late 1960s obsession with

classical Greek myths continues with

this opera/drama/physical theatre mix.

South Hill Park, Bracknell (0344

484123). Tonight-Sat, 8pm, £8 (£4.50

concs).

**JACOB MARLEY AND STEPHEN-**

**TAYLOR WOODROW: The Second**

*String*. A collaboration between

performer and sculptor. An

excellent new work.

ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930

3647). Tonight until May 19. Mon-Sat,

8pm, £5 (£2.50), plus £1 day

membership.

**BRUCE MCLEAN: Vertical Balcony**

A performance piece presented

alongside an exhibition of his new

sculptures. Performed by Sue

Hawley, a member of Rambert Dance

Company.

Almofina, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol (022

299191). Fri, 8pm, £3 (£2.20

concs).

**FRAN COTTET: Double Interior**

A gallery space is transformed into the

inside of a garment. Cottet explores the

relationship between body space and

buildings.

Greenwich Citizens' Gallery, 15 Powis

Street, London SE1 (01-516 2722).

Tomorrow until May 24. Tues-Sat,

10am-5pm, free.

**GARY STEVENS: Animal**

In a sea of soft toys this strong grouping of

performers give us a madcap

theatre/sculpture piece – what it is to

be human or animal?

British Art Show 1990, The Dome

Theatre, Cheltenham Road, Leeds (0532 223529). Sat, Sun, 7pm, £2 (£1

concs).

**TRACKERS IN ATHENS, DELPHI**

AND LONDON: A talk given by Oliver

Taplin who travelled with the company

for the one-performance world premiere

of *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus* in

Delphi.

Royal National Theatre (Oliver),

Southbank, London SE1 (071-928 9282).

Tonight, Sun, 8pm, £2.50, £1.50.

**ROBERT ALTMAYER:** *Wise Men*

Establishing a bond with a naming town.

With Oliver Parker.

Cameron Plaza (01-505 3447). Friday

and Saturday, 8pm, £12.50.

**DOUGLAS DUNN: All reading in**

conjunction with an exhibition of

portraits of contemporary poets by

Peter Edwards.

National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's

Place, London WC2 (01-730 1552).

Sat, 3pm, free.

**CHRISTOPHER RANSBURY:** Foremost

Austrian writer who will read from his

highly-acclaimed novel, *The Last World*.

Waterstone's, 193 Kensington High

Street, London W8 (071-251 0393). May

Emma Baxter. Tues, 7pm, free.

Waterson Media Centre, 1 Canons

Road, Bristol (tel 0272 276 4444).

Tonight, 7.30pm, Sat, 2.30pm, £3 (£2

concs).

**ADRIAN HENRI: Well-loved greyling**

Stixies pop darling, painter and poet,

reads from his new collection *Wish You*

Were Here.

Beeston Library, Foster Avenue,

Beeston, Nottinghamshire (0926)

255168). Tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50, £1.50.

**VOICE BOX - ANGELS OF FIRE:** A

loose grouping of poets who propose

the enrichment of a global secular

spirituality through an expression of the

connections between personal and

environmental awareness.

Voice Box, Festival Hall, South Bank

SE1 (071-928 8800). Tomorrow, 7.30pm,

£3, £2.50.

**BRUCE MCLEAN: Vertical Balcony**

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May 26. Emma Baxter. Tues, 7pm, free.

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May 26. Emma Baxter. Tues, 7pm, free.</

## TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

## BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie Mayer and Fiona Foster. Includes a review of the morning newspapers by Phillip Kennedy. 6.55 Regional news and weather  
9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air  
9.20 Gloria Live, Magazine show presented by Gloria Hunniford  
10.00 News and weather followed by Matchpoint (r)  
10.25 Children's BBC begins with Playdays which comes from Tipper in Essex (10.50 Bumpit) 10.55 Five to Eleven, Patricia Routledge with more readings from Julian of Norwich  
11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air  
12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live. Anna Massey continues her exploration of the locations that inspired the Brontë Sisters. Plus a song from Paul Young 12.55 Regional news and weather  
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton  
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Matchpoint. General knowledge quiz film: Buddies (1983). Lively comedy thriller from Australia featuring Colin Friels and Harold Hopkins as two hardworking sapphire miners heading off the stampy by a big company to grab their claim. Worth first effort by director Arch Nicholson



Join the 25th birthday celebrations (5.00pm)

## BBC 2

6.45 Open University: England is the Place for Me. Ends at 7.10  
6.00 News 8.15 Westminster  
9.00 Why That? West. Hector MacCurdy leaves his ancestral home at Dunluce Castle and heads for Glenarm (r)  
9.25 Daytime on Two includes 10.00 Look, Stranger which visits a factory in Durham famous for its dining organs. 11.00 A Victorian childhood 12.10 The discovery of lignite in Northern Ireland and 1.40 A musical version of The Emperor and the Nightingale  
2.00 News and weather followed by Watch  
2.15 Country File (r) 2.40 In the Garden (r)  
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.50 News, regional news and weather  
4.00 Junior Darts. The British Youth Darts championship quarter-finals  
4.30 Top Gear (r) 5.00 Swap! How to get the best photos at children's parties (r). (Ceefax) 5.10 Horizon: The Intelligent Island (r) (Ceefax)  
6.00 Film: Where the River Banks (1952) Compelling Western, set in 1840s Oregon, with James Stewart as an outlaw-turned-wepon train guide in conflict with his former partner (Arthur Kennedy) who is making a quick profit selling their supplies to prospectors. One of several fine films which Stewart made in the Fifties with the director, Anthony Mann  
7.30 9 It 5. This last in the series examines how employers now want to link pay with performance  
8.00 Yes, Minister. More brilliantly panned comic clashes between politics and the civil service, as represented by Paul Eddington and Nigel Hawthorne (r). (Ceefax)  
8.30 Nature. Michael Buerk hosts the



Launched into orbit: staff of KYTV (9.00pm)

sharp-edged environmental show which this week examines the recent American report on how the world could be "redesigned" so that it will not choke on its own waste products  
9.30 Minutes: A View From the Bridge  
• The current series ends, as it has often proceeded, in sombre mood. Regular viewers may regret that 40 Minutes seems to be becoming more like Panorama and neglecting those lighter offbeat looks at British life on which it largely made its reputation. Having said that tonight's film about Colin Graver, a Durham boy with a speech defect who was bullied and teased by his mates and eventually threw himself to his death in the river Thames, is vivid and haunting. It is a terrible story of how a youngster was somehow allowed to feel that by the age of 17 life had ceased to have any purpose. How it happened is not clear, but clearly some stated institutions which he had helped him fail to do so. In nine years of his special school never gave him the speech therapy recommended by the local authority, while his experience with the VTS was little short of disastrous. A YTS manager who tried to help Colin provides a brutal epithet: "It's the survival of the fittest and Colin just wasn't one of them."  
10.10 Two Boys and a Girl from Glasgow. Alison Watt, Peter Howson and Steven Campbell, all former students at the Glasgow School of Art, are profiled  
10.30 Newswatch and Local Elections 90. David Dimbleby introduces a special edition which features live coverage of the local election results, continued on BBC1 at 11.40.  
11.15 The Late Show. A special programme featuring some of the best American rap artists 11.55 Weather  
12.00 Open University: Weekend Outlook 12.05am The Psychology of Addiction. Ends at 12.35

show. But there is no denying its staying power and ability to draw big audiences. Without Tomorrow's World millions of people would be more ignorant about science. Tonight's programme, live as usual, is extended to an hour and celebrates the show's 25th anniversary with a look forward to the next 25 years in the company of television stations abroad which run science programmes in the Tomorrow's World mould. Brazil, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States are among the countries providing speculations and predictions. All of them, of course, are scientifically based

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Mervyn Lewis. Regional news and weather  
9.30 Birds of a Feather. Last in the repeated series of the gritty and incisive comedy about two sisters with a jaded husband. Tracey gets a fond letter from hubby Darby, only to discover that it was meant for another girl. (Ceefax)  
10.00 The Richard Dimbleby Lecture: Europe in the 80s. Helmut Schmidt, the former German Chancellor, argues for a new Euro and a political strengthening of the European Community

10.40 Question Time. The guests are Dr John Cunningham MP, the Rev June Osborne; Scottish Secretary of State Malcolm Rifkind; and Sir David Steel

11.40 Local Elections 90. David Dimbleby with live coverage of local election results

3.00approx Weather

defence of satellite TV it should be said that many of jokes could equally well apply to the terrestrial variety

9.30 40 Minutes: A View From the Bridge

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## ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News followed by Good Morning Britain, presented by Geoff Clark and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Loraine Keay. With news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine includes Clare Rayner with her problem postbag

9.25 Cross Wits. Ollie shows hosted by Tom O'Connor 9.55 Thames News and weather

10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Mike Scott chairs another topical discussion

10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes items on consumer affairs, child safety

restrictions, family health and the

world's first ecological park on an

industrial estate. With national and

international news at 10.55 and regional

news at 11.55 followed by national

weather

12.10 The Riddlers. For the young 12.30 Home and Away (r)

1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather 1.20 Thames News and weather

1.30 Somebody's Children. The second of four programmes on adoption looks at the experiences of three adoptees

searching for their roots 2.00 A Country Practice

2.30 TV Weekly. Anne Diamond takes her weekly look behind the scenes of ITV's programmes

3.00 Sounds Like Music. Bobby Crush quizzes three more contestants on their stage and screen musical

knowledge 3.25 Thames News and weather 3.30 Sons and Daughters. Australian drama

4.00 Huxley Pig (r) 4.15 The Adventures

of Teddy Ruxpin (r) 4.40 End Blyton's Castle of Adventure. Children's adventure serial starring Susan George, Brian Blessed, Corinne Ransom and Gareth Hunt

5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers

6.40 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Speerley with details of the Friends of the Earth organization

6.60 Home and Away (r)

6.30 Thames News and weather

7.00 Emmerdale. (Oracle)

7.30 Sporting Triangles. Royal jockey Willie Carson, formerly a star of the

TV BCB quiz, A Question of Sport,

joins Jimmy Greaves on tonight's programme. Swimmer Sharon Davies partners Andy Gray, while footballer David Platt teams up with Emlyn Hughes. Craig Craig fires the questions

8.00 The Bill. Small Hours. Two stories for the price of one in today's episode of the superb police series. Datta and Quirran are sceptical about a Vietnamese lady's complaints of racial harassment, but then a fire bomb is put through her door. Meanwhile, Ackland and Hollis stop a car with a young couple in it, whereupon the man takes off his clothes and does a streak down the road. (Oracle)

8.30 This Week: The Millionaire in Chains. A portrait of Adrian Kashoggi, once dubbed "the richest man in the world", as he lives the life of Riley while on board with an electronic tag attached to his ankle, accused of racketeering and helping the Marcos

government's coffers. The film shows him enjoying himself with his family

and friends as he takes his private DC9 from Florida to New York where he lives in a \$30 million apartment

9.00 TECK. The plug is being pulled on this feable detective series, which is being cut short with six episodes still to go. Next week this slot will be filled with a new helping of *L.A. Law*. (Oracle)

10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gall and Julia Somerville. Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather

10.35 The City Programme. Is the British oil business set to boil? And are the institutional investors guilty of too often taking the short-term view? Presented by Steve Clarke and Danielle Donoughue

11.05 Thames News Election Special. Andrew Gardner presents live coverage of the results from today's local elections. Eyes will be fixed particularly on Wandsworth, the borough with the lowest poll tax, but with a Conservative majority of just one seat. With Denis Tuohy and Robin Houston

2.00am The Twilight Zone: The Cold Equations. A teenage stowaway on a spacecraft discovers that she has made a fatal mistake. Followed by News headlines

2.30 Stephen King's World of Horrors. Scare-master Stephen King mixes chilling surprises with sinister wit in this exclusive tour through his own personal realm of terror

3.30 Bedrock features Gary Numan in concert at the Hammersmith Odeon in October last year

4.30 America's Top Ten introduced by Casey Kasem

5.00 ITN Morning News with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00

6.00 Home and Away (r)

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Two by two: Watched by tourists, lunching in the sun outside Southwark Cathedral yesterday, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, escorts the new Bishop of Ely, the Rev Canon Stephen Sykes, the Regis Professor of Divinity at Cambridge University, before his consecration

## Asian bride awarded damages for virginity slander by husband

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

**AN ASIAN** bride whose husband refused to consummate their marriage won £20,000 slander damages yesterday over suggestions by him and his parents that she was not a virgin.

The damages were awarded in the High Court after the judge, Mr Justice Michael Davies, cited a rarely-used 19th century statute, the Slander of Women Act 1891.

Miss Zahida Seemi had been told on her wedding night by her husband, Mr Mohammed Nasir Sadiq, that she was "not good" and had been associating sexually with other men. He said he would consider keeping her if her parents gave him and his parents, Mohammed Sadiq and Ghulam Fatima Sadiq, 100,000 rupees (about £3,500).

Awarding her the damages, with costs, against the Sadiqs who were not in court and have not been traced, the judge commented: "In some spheres in 1985, 1981 or 1990, an accusation of sex before marriage would not be regarded as a very serious matter. But I'm satisfied that in a community of which Miss Seemi was part — in Pakistan

or England — it is regarded as a very grave insult."

Miss Seemi, aged 30, who came over from Pakistan for the case, broke down as she told the judge through an interpreter that she had suffered greatly and had been living in the hope that the court would clear her character.

"Otherwise I have no desire to live any more,"

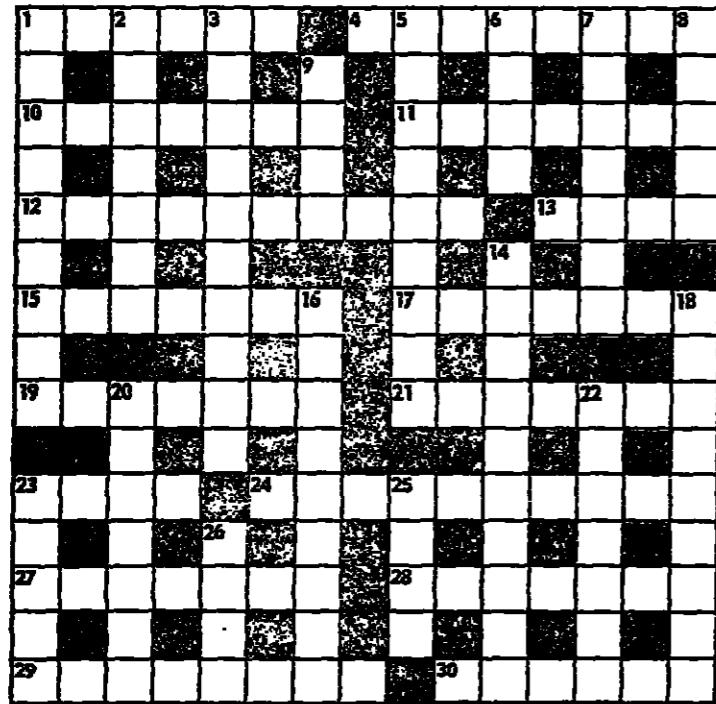
Mr Gurdip Gill, for Miss Seemi, said that she had waited nine years for justice in her case. The case had come to him after the previous solicitors had failed to take action.

"She is not concerned about the amount of damages. She wanted to be vindicated. Now she can go back to Pakistan to the village elders, with this judgement from an English court that shows all the marks and innuendos were false. She can hold her head high in her community."

He added that suggestions such as those made, that Miss Seemi was a "woman and not a girl" when she married, were the greatest insult in a community such as hers where being a virgin on marriage was of the utmost importance. "This implies she had sexual affairs prior to

Boost to rights, page 2

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,284



#### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

**TRISUL**

a. Consul for the third time

b. Having three sails

c. A trident

**KLIPDAS**

a. The Botswana currency

b. The Cape hyrax

c. A Dutch soft cheese

**HART DUCHA**

a. An 18-point star

b. Sentimental longing

c. Self-mastery

**SITMA**

a. A Malaysian gibbon

b. Part of the earth's crust

c. A Macedonian cobot

**Answers on page 20**

#### AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs) 731

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T... 733

M-ways/roads M25-M4... 735

M25 London Orbital only... 736

National traffic and roadworks

West Country... 737

Wales... 739

Midlands... 740

East Anglia... 741

North East England... 742

Scotland... 744

Northern Ireland... 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise crossword, page 20

The Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword will appear in Saturday's paper.

## Political sketch

### The question of sparing a bawbee

AT WESTMINSTER, Scottish Questions occur infrequently: only once a month. So an enduring mystery for those who work here is why, whenever you go into the Chamber, it always seems to be Scottish Questions. One recalls childhood: "cod liver oil after tea, once a week" — yet, whatever the day, it always seemed to be cod liver oil day.

Meanwhile his rather grand companion, Scottish Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, had been waylaid in the shadows by the satyrine figure of Gavin Strang (Lab, Edinburgh E). Money, please, for electrification of the Glasgow-Edinburgh rail line. Rifkind pursed his lips and advised Lang to apply to the appropriate charity, British Rail. "A matter for them."

A second horror haunts those of us who walk to Westminster by way of Charing Cross or Hungerford Bridge: the dishevelled character who lurches out of a shadowy corner and asks for money, in accents pitched somewhere between wheedling and threatening. "Gie us eno' for a cup o' tea, Jimmy" is the cry.

Questions yesterday presented both horrors wrapped in a Parliamentary hour. For the subject was (*aargh!*) Scotland, the plea was for pecuniary advantage, and such was the tone that, had the Hungerford Bridge chaps wandered in to join the debate, the level of debate would hardly have suffered.

Requests to the Scottish Secretary were various but fell under the broad headings of straight requests for cash, (more subtly) for subsidy, or (most subtly of all) for a local tax which did not require people to pay so much.

Jimmy Wray (Glasgow, Provan) thought that the student top-up loans scheme and the poll tax combined to impoverish Scottish students. Some student nurses, he said, were not being offered work once their training was over. His party's principal spokesman, Donald Dewar, backed him up: "Many students find it hard to manage."

Importuned thus, Junior Minister Ian Lang turned aside and hurried on, tight-lipped. The number of nurses was up by a fifth, he said crisply, and, no, he had no change on him.

Rounding a corner, two Questions further on, he was confronted by the urchin-like figure of Ernie Ross (Lab, Dundee W) who taunted him over his "opting out" proposals for Scottish schools.

It was a mistake for Lang to stop to talk to Ernie, for he was immediately confronted by other Scots members, gathering to lament meagre

Matthew Parris

## UK puts Athens in the shade

By David Young

BRITAIN continued to bask in high-summer sunshine yesterday, with the temperature in Inverness higher than that in Athens. Edinburgh, however, the "Athens of the North", remained considerably cooler.

In London the lunchtime temperature reached 24C (73F), in Inverness it was 22C, and in Edinburgh 14C whereas, in Athens, it was only 20C and cloudy. The hottest place in Britain was Glenlivet, where the locals fortunately had access to suitable celebratory refreshment as the temperature climbed to 28C.

The fine weather brought a spate of warnings — ranging from practical advice on gardening to the traditional "put a brick in your lavatory cistern" — from the recently privatized water companies.

After a teenager died the police, too, issued a stern warning against the dangers of swimming in icy rivers during the heatwave. Brian Jones, aged 15, drowned despite rescue attempts by four friends. The five had gone to swim in part of the River Dee at Pontcysyllte, North Wales. Police divers later recovered the boy's body.

A police spokesman said: "This is a tragic waste of a young life. We are warning people against unsupervised swimming in rivers and pools.

The water in the Dee at this time of year is still very cold coming down from the mountains. Deep river waters like this are always very, very dangerous."

Yorkshire Water yesterday urged people not to use garden hoses during the coming holiday weekend, and joined forces with the Northern Horticultural Society to convince gardeners that water can be bad for the health of their plants. A new leaflet says that less water can improve gardens, and asks: "Why feed weeds?" In the Isles of Scilly, a hosepipe ban has already been introduced.

Yorkshire Water's reserves are at 84 per cent of peak levels, which is 10 per cent below the same time last year. It says that, even in a dry spell, watering plants and lawns once a week is enough. Vegetables normally require water no more than once a fortnight.

While most of the country hopes the heatwave will continue over the holiday weekend, farmers in one part of the country are hoping for rain. A spokesman for the National Farmers' Union said yesterday that the soil in East Anglia was "bone dry". Farmers fear that another drought could lead to water restrictions and a ban on them using irrigation to help their crops.

**Threat to ban hooligans**

FOOTBALL hooligans who provoke trouble during the World Cup finals in Italy next month will be banned from international matches for two years. Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, said yesterday (written Louise Taylor).

The threat is made possible by the Football Spectators Act which comes into force on June 1 and will empower

British magistrates to impose orders on people convicted by foreign courts. They will be ordered to attend police stations at future kick-off times.

Offences covered include drunkenness, threatening or using violence, and criminal damage. Mr Waddington said:

"Let this be a firm warning not to make trouble to those attending the World Cup."

**WEATHER**

After patchy fog and low cloud clears from eastern England and Wales, most places will have another fine dry and sunny day. It will become very warm in many inland areas, but onshore winds will keep coastal areas cooler. Along North Sea coasts, from Lincolnshire northwards, patchy fog may be a problem throughout the day. Outlook: All places dry and sunny with patchy fog overnight.

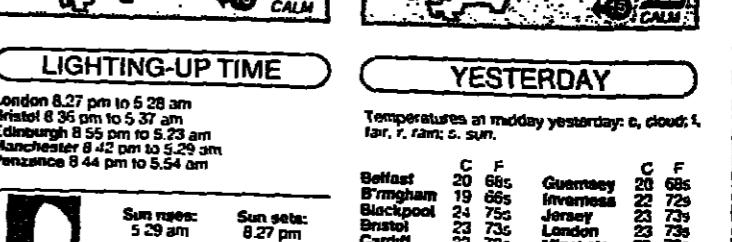
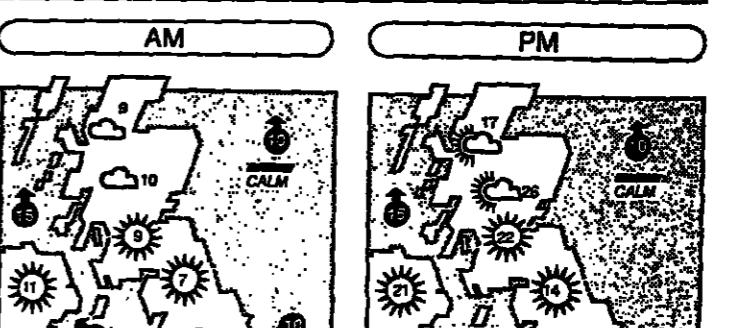
#### ABROAD

#### AROUND BRITAIN

**MIDDAY:** 1=thunder; d=dazzle; f=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; et=eternal; c=cloudy; t=tornadic

**SUN:** Rain in C. P.M.

**MON:** Rain in C. P.M.



#### TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest regional forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 600 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE 731

Devon & Cornwall 704

Wiltts/Glos./Avon/Som. 705

East Anglia 706

Bedz/Herts & Essex 707

Norfolk/Suffolk/Cambs 708

West Mid & Sth Glou & Wrec. 709

Shrops/Herds & Worcs. 710

Cheshire 711

East Midlands 712

Lincs & Humberside 713

Dyfed & Powys 714

Gwynedd & Clwyd 715

Wales 716

W & S Yorks & Dales 717

N E England 718

Cumbria & Lake Distri. 719

S W Scotland 720

Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders 721

E Central Scotland 722

Grampian & E Highlands 724

N W Scotland 725

Cairngorms/Orcney & Shetland 726

N Ireland 727

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

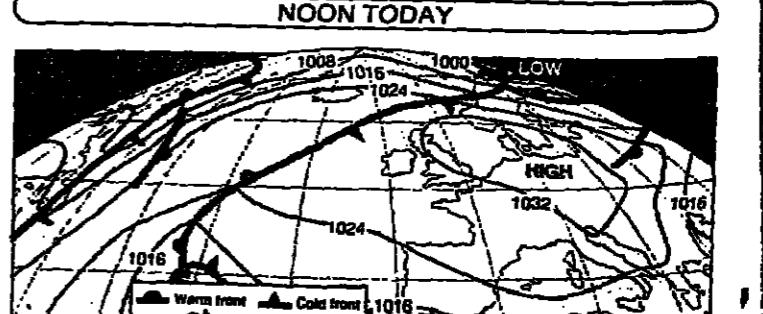
#### GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 pm to 6 pm, 25C (77F); min 6 pm to 6 pm, 10C (50F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 13.5 mm.

#### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 pm to 6 pm, 24C (77F); min 6 pm to 6 pm, 10C (50F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 13.5 mm.

#### NOON TODAY



## BUSINESS

THURSDAY MAY 3 1990

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6430 (+0.0035)  
W German mark  
2.7635 (+0.0080)  
Exchange index  
87.1 (+0.2)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1678.0 (+14.5)  
FT-SE 100  
2137.6 (+19.7)  
USM (Datstream)  
130.69 (-0.12)

Market report, page 30

## Diamond market caution

THE world's premier diamond group, De Beers Consolidated, says the rough-diamond market opened 1990 on a strong note, but the mood has become more cautious.

Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman, said De Beers is going ahead with a new R1.1 billion (£253 million) diamond mine in the Northern Transvaal.

De Beers' plan to establish a Swiss company - De Beers Centenary - to hold its non-South African assets will be voted on by shareholders on May 25. Old share certificates will no longer be good for dealing purposes after June 8.

Tempus, page 24

## Royal ahead

Royal Bank of Scotland reported a slight rise in pre-tax profits from £171 million to £173.6 million for the six months to end March. The interim dividend rises from 2.4p to 2.8p.

Tempus, page 24

## STOCK MARKETS

New York:	Dow Jones	2680.18 (+11.26)
Tokyo:	Nikkei Average	30173.64 (+483.81)
Hong Kong:	Hong Kong	2957.76 (+12.58)
America:	CDS Tendency	155.8 (-0.2)
Switzerland:	AO	162.9 (+2.23)
Frankfurt:	DAX	1843.41 (+30.15)
Brussels:	General	6082.07 (+17.13)
Paris:	CAC	546.95 (-0.18)
Zurich:	SKA Gen	503.03 (+1.1)
FT All-Share	1057.17 (+7.98)	
FT "500"	1164.87 (+7.85)	
FT Gold Mines	215.95 (+0.45)	
FT Fixed Interest	84.59 (+0.22)	
FT Govt Sacs	74.27 (-0.24)	

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises:	Barcays	520p (+11p)
	Nat West	520p (+10p)
	Bank of Scot	160p (+10p)
	Corby	120p (+10p)
	Ashersham	280p (+10p)
	Bentals	140p (+10p)
	Body Shop	441p (+10p)
	GUS A'	919p (+10p)
	Borsen	100p (+10p)
	Postcom Telecom	327p (+10p)
	Commercial Union	455p (+10p)
	Carlton Comm	495p (+10p)
	UK Land	295p (+20p)
	Dawson Holdings	735p (+20p)
	Uniglobe	2825p (+14p)

## FALLS:

Kirkcudbright	480p (-48p)
Carter Allen	200p (-10p)
Concourse Group	725p (-25p)
Concord Property	230p (-10p)
Closing prices	485p (-20p)
Bargains	20174
SEAC Volume	433.0m

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base:	15%
3-month interbank:	15% - 16%*
3-month eligible bills:	14% - 14%*
US Prime Rate 10%*	
Federal Funds 8%*	
3-month Treasury Bills:	7.83 - 7.91%*
30-year bonds 94% - 94.12%*	

## CURRENCIES

Londons:	New York	£1.6430
£ DM 2.625	DM 1.6220	\$ 1.6454*
£ Swf 1.3957	Swf 1.4545*	Fr 1.5645*
£ Ffr 9.7789	Ffr 9.5645*	Euro 1.6454*
£ Yen 260.04	Yen 260.04	¥ 164.54*
£ Index 37.1	Index 37.1	DM 1.6220
ECU 50.740749	SDR 50.795085	£ 1.6430
£ Cdu 1.351079	£ Sdr 1.257727	

## GOLD

London: Fine	AM \$370.50 pm	\$369.80
	close	\$368.75 - \$369.25 (224.50 - 225.00)
New York:	Comex	\$369.10 - \$369.80*

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun.)	\$17.35/bbl (\$17.20)
* Denotes latest trading price	

## TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	Bank	Bank
Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.91	2.15
Austria Sch	2.05	1.95
Belgium Fr	6.04	5.98
Canada \$	1.95	1.88
Denmark Kr	11.05	10.35
Finland Mark	6.65	6.45
France Fr	9.88	9.75
Germany Dm	2.75	2.72
Hong Kong \$	13.41	12.51
Ireland Pt	1.05	1.05
Italy Lira	2125	2050.25
Japan Yen	12.23	10.05
Malta Lira	11.24	10.54
Portugal Esc	258.25	240.25
South Africa R	1.46	1.45
Spain Pts	1.51	1.49
Sweden Kr	10.46	9.85
Switzerland Fr	2.95	2.945
Turkey Lira	435.5	384.5
USA \$	24.50	17.50
Yugoslavia Duk		

Forwards for small denominations bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Recent Price Indexes: £12.4 (March).

## Drexel facing legal threat over \$103m

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE British subsidiaries of Drexel Burnham Lambert, the collapsed US securities house, raised \$103 million in copper futures deals with a Middle Eastern bank.

The money was sent to the United States in a desperate attempt to prop up the parent company.

The bank and an international trading company involved are now threatening to sue Drexel in Britain - which is in liquidation - to recover the funds.

If they are successful, some of Drexel's other creditors, including senior London commodity traders, will receive only 40 per cent of their claims.

Drexel in the US needed funds to support its ailing trading subsidiary and pay a \$320 million bonus to its staff.

As a result, DBL Ltd, the London commodity futures trading arm of the group, last October carried out a series of complex copper spot and futures contracts worth \$10 million with the bank and \$93 million with the other company.

The money was then put into Drexel Burnham Lambert Finance, a non-trading subsidiary, which sent it to the US.

Mr Tim Hayward, a joint liquidator from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, said it was unlikely the money would be recovered from the US soon - if at all - because of

the slow progress of the bankruptcy proceedings.

Peat has so far refused to name either the bank or the company. Both, however, are expected to make a formal claim against DBL Ltd. Mr Hayward said he did not believe the claims were proper, and could result in a protracted legal battle.

On Monday, partners from DBL Securities, the Eurobond trading company, have now found other jobs. Most of the traders have been taken on by other commodity firms.

All of them will have to wait for severance pay, since they are unsecured creditors of DBL Holdings, the principal British subsidiary, which will only be wound up once all the other companies have been dealt with.

However, Mr Hayward said they would probably obtain less than 100 per cent of their claims.

Drexel Burnham Lambert filed in the US for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last February, after a group of banks refused to supply an emergency credit line of \$400 million.

The firm rose to prominence in the 1980s by creating the \$200 billion junk-bond market. But fame turned to notoriety last year when Drexel pleaded guilty to six securities law violations and paid \$650 million in fines.

Last week, Mr Michael Milken, the former head of Drexel's junk bond division, admitted six fraud charges and agreed to pay a \$600 million fine.

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

THE European Commission yesterday declared that it is seeking powers to crack down within three weeks of a complaint being filed, instead of having to wait up to four months while the full legal procedure runs its course.

The Commission identified four practices it regards as anti-competitive and illegal. They are:

- Providing so much capacity or such high frequencies on a route that other airlines find it difficult to sell their services - for instance, laying on 8.45 am and 9.15 am flights without good reason when a competitor has just introduced a 9.00 am service.

- Charging fares appreciably below the carrier's own fully allocated costs.

- Giving benefits such as "override" commissions to travel agents to make it difficult for other airlines to compete.

- Granting passengers benefits, such as frequent-flier points, which artificially maintain their loyalty to an specific airline.

The EC said rapid action is often necessary to protect smaller airlines. But before any suspension, the offending carrier would be fully consulted and given a chance to end the practice of its own accord.

Mr Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, has spoken out strongly for more competitive air fares within the European Community.

"Overall we are still making good money and on the Belfast route, where we do compete more or less on equal terms with eight flights a day each, they have 56 per cent of the market and we have 44 per cent," he said. "But our share on Glasgow has now fallen to around 25 per cent and there is a real risk that this kind of predatory action could push that route into a loss."

He admitted that the decision by British Airways in November to put an extra four flights a day on the Glasgow route had already begun to hurt his airline, but claimed it was also hurting BA.

Mr Michael Bishop, chairman of BMA, accused Sir Freddie Laker, whose airline collapsed in 1982 allegedly after big airlines combined to put him out of business, has returned to haunt the board of British Midland Airways as it fights a desperate battle with British Airways to increase its operations from Heathrow.

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With the feeling growing that the French are gaining the initiative, Prime Minister Thatcher is taking an interest in the project's final resting place.

Mr Young says the French, who regard public spending as a way of life rather than anathema, are offering the simpler package. "In France it is one deal with central Government covering planning, land acquisition and infrastructure. In Britain it is rather different."

If Euro Disneyland is anything to go by, the French authorities think nothing

of confiscating a few hundred hectares of farmland. In Britain, MCA is likely to have to make separate deals with each of the five owners of the 1,600-acre site. Inevitably the French site will be linked to the high speed TGV network, while Rainham offers a new station on the Tilbury to Fenchurch Street line.

The French also fight dirty. "MCA would be crazy to go to Rainham, which is an Army shooting range, radioactive, has lousy transport and has rare birds that need protecting," said a spokeswoman for the Parisian new towns.

Rainham's main hope is that MCA will be deterred by the competition that Euro Disneyland offers in Paris. But the company has just opened Universal Studios Florida to compete with Disneyworld, while in California its Universal Studios Tours competes with Disneyland. *C'est la guerre.*

Meanwhile, the WonderWorld theme park project in Northamptonshire has failed to meet a May 1 deadline for starting work on the site. Corby District Council has withdrawn its support.

But while MCA and its development

## Sweet success for Tate &amp; Lyle

JAMES GRAY



MR NEIL Shaw, chairman of Tate &amp; Lyle, sugars finance director Mr Paul Lewis's cap as they celebrate a

sweet 25 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits of £87.5 million. Fully diluted earnings per share rose 10 per cent to 11.7p and the dividend is up 40p to 3.3p.

Tempus, page 24

French take control of Framlington

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

A LABOUR government would probably return National Grid, the soon-to-be-privatised company responsible for Britain's electric power network, to public ownership in its first term of office, according to Mr Frank Dobson, Shadow Energy Secretary.

The policy disclosure was greeted with relief in the City, where analysts saw it posing no threat to the £10 billion-plus flotation this autumn.

Although much would still depend on how Labour operated the national grid in practice, the possibility of renationalisation was generally seen as reasonable, even favourable, for the industry.

Mr Dobson said the move would be given "high priority" and foresaw enhanced powers for National Grid to ensure security of power supply and foster policy goals such as energy conservation.

Charter Consolidated, holder of 38.9 per cent in JM, said it supported the action.

JM added that net earnings would also suffer in the year ended March because of a higher tax charge, but that benefits from the measures would start to flow in the current financial year.

The JM board was subject to changes on December 6 when Mr Eugene Anderson, chief executive, resigned all posts within the company. The next day JM announced that Mr Neil Clarke had decided to retire from the board.

Mr Davies, who was appointed chairman on January 1, said the cost-cutting programme followed "a thorough review" of the group's activities.

"JM had become very flabby," he added.

Gross margins, he said, had continued to show good growth and the balance sheet was healthy. However, production costs and overheads had grown faster.

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

...has

## Sterling needed little support

**By Colin Narbrough**  
Economics Correspondent  
THE pound appears to have needed only modest help from the Bank of England last month, despite poll tax troubles, gathering gloom about the economy and the markets' conviction that sterling was extremely vulnerable.

Official reserves of gold and currency – regarded as the best guide to intervention in the currency markets – showed a fall of \$98 million, compared with a \$429 million drop in March. The April figure was in line with City forecasts.

Intervention last month was prompted at the start by a negative response abroad to riots against the poll tax and, at the end, by a disappointing set of trade figures.

Sterling advanced again yesterday, with no sign of any nervous sell-off before today's local elections, in which the Conservatives are expected to suffer heavy losses.

On its trade-weighted index, sterling closed at 87.1, or 0.2 of a point ahead of the previous close, holding on to the early gains. In the money market, the key three-month interbank lending rate eased slightly.

Britain's high interest rates were seen to be providing adequate underpinning for the pound, although some foreign exchange dealers attributed the pound's rise to the unwinding of long positions in yen and marks.

The financial markets have become increasingly focused on next week's retail prices data, which are expected to show the annual inflation rate surging above 9 per cent.

Final money supply figures showed M0 – the narrow money supply measure still targeted by the Government – growing at an annual rate of 6.3 per cent in March, confirming provisional data.

The Bundesbank's policy setting council is expected to leave West German key lending rates unchanged when it meets in Frankfurt today.

## The message for Royal is defence

CHARLES Winter, chief executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland, is a perplexed man. In the past, he has announced sparkling figures only to see the bank's shares slide. Yesterday, as he admitted to a 7 per cent slide in earnings per share to 13.9p, the market responded by adding 10p to the price.

After the pall cast over the sector by Midland Bank's warning last week, investors were merely relieved that Royal's news was not as bad as feared. Thanks to an exceptional £10.8 million write-back from Third World debt sales, pre-tax profits even rose 2 per cent to £173.6 million.

Behind that, however, Royal showed all the symptoms of a bank coping with a difficult market. Profits at the main bank fell 3 per cent to £138 million, despite a 12 per cent rise in the group's income.

The 15 per cent climb in costs to £376 million pushed the cost/income ratio to 65.4 percent, 2 percent higher than a year ago.

Charterhouse, the merchant bank, saw profits slide 19 per cent to £21.1 million due to increased provision, particularly on its portfolio of management buyouts. Charterhouse is also suffering from the downturn in profitable merger and acquisition work.

The group's restatement of its highly-leveraged transaction exposure from £750 million to £295 million smacks of goalpost transportation, no matter how hard it pleads its case.

In any case, the acid test of Royal's loan book will be the level of its specific bad debt provisions in the next two years. This time, they rose 63 per cent to £47.1 million, out of total provisions of £57.8 million. Even this may be too low, since the charge is still 0.25 per cent of total lending, the same as last September despite the worsening economic scene.

While Royal's European adventure remains an entertaining sideshow, the message at home looks to be defence. Full-year profits are likely to fall at least £10 million short of last year's £336 million before LDC provisions.

At that level, the shares have a p/e ratio of 6, with a 6.6 per cent yield on the probable 8.4p dividend. Remaining bank fans can find better value elsewhere in the sector.

### De Beers

DE BEERS' master plan in setting up a Swiss company – De Beers Centenary, which has all the hallmarks of its financial wizard, Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson – looks just like a prologue to a play with many acts.

The official line is that Centenary can now be identified as the non-South African twin sister from the same family, and therefore not deserving of the South African political discount factor.

That its birth will mean

greater, and easier, business opportunities can be seized. And that it will facilitate access to international capital markets – not that De Beers, which has a borrowing capacity of R11.7 billion (\$4.57 billion), looks like being in need of trotting the begging bowl round Europe.

The world-wide investment audience has already given De Beers a warm round of applause, and the share price has risen by 20 per cent since the March announcement. At a time of considerable political uncertainty in South Africa, any move which gives a SA-based company a "foreign" element is a welcome aspirin for investors who cannot sleep at night worrying about nationalization.

De Beers' other party line is that Centenary and itself will be "stapled" and only tradeable as one linked unit. However, it seems unlikely that this will always be the case, and betting books are now open as to how long before the cord is cut.

As the moment nears when the unstapling looks like happening, the excitement will grow. Meanwhile, De Beers at £13.70 on a prospective p/e of 5.6 and a prospective 6 per cent yield remains a steal.

### Tate & Lyle

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# Nobel to buy Crown paints from Williams for £205m

NOBEL Industries Sweden, the Swedish conglomerate, will buy Crown Berger, the paint division of Williams Holdings, for £205 million cash.

The move marks an attempt by Nobel to strengthen its position in the European paints market, where it currently ranks fifth, behind ICI, Akzo, Hoechst and BASF.

Crown Berger, best known for Crown paints, is the second largest paint manufacturer in Britain, after ICI, with a market share of about 25 per cent. Mr Brian McGowan, chief executive of Williams, said the sale would lead to an elimination of borrowings currently running at £180

million, and to a reduced exposure to the depressed British consumer products market.

He added that the company did not intend to use the receipts for investments or takeovers. "Cash is king at present and it makes a lot of sense to sit and wait. There is too much uncertainty and it won't be getting better until interest rates come down."

The sale excludes Crown Berger's North American and Portuguese businesses, which account for about 20 per cent of the division's sales. After the sale, Williams Holdings' exposure to consumer products businesses will be reduced to 25 per cent of sales, while

chemical firm. The group, as a whole, made SKr1.24 billion profits last year after financial items on SKr22 billion turnover.

Crown Berger suffered a fall in profits from £25.6 million to £20.9 million in 1989, although this compared with only £11.4 million in 1987. Crown was bought by Williams Holdings in July, 1987, and Berger was acquired six months later.

Nobel has undertaken to make an additional deferred payment of up to £35 million depending on sales during the current year. The deal met with a positive reaction from the market as the shares rose 9p to close at 250p.

## Cadbury in £150m issue

By Graham Searjeant

Cadbury-Schweppes is proposing to raise up to £150 million via an issue of preference shares in Canada as part of a plan to cut borrowings and increase its potential cash-raising power to finance future deals.

The group incurred net borrowings of £420 million last year after making £700 million of acquisitions, raising its loan gearing above 60 per cent, even allowing for the inclusion in the balance sheet of a valuation for some acquired brands.

After a proxy battle with General Cinema, which owns about 17 per cent of its stock, Cadbury also raised its borrowing powers to 2.5 times capital and reserves, theoretically lifting its permitted borrowings to £1.7 billion.

It now plans to create about £450 million of unquoted preference shares, of which between £150 million and £250 million denominated in US and Canadian dollars, will initially be issued.

The share issue, aimed at institutions, would raise the group's cash-raising potential in two ways: by reducing existing borrowings and by increasing its capital base.

At the group's annual meeting, Sir Graham Day, the chairman, said profit growth and integration of acquisitions was going according to plan, but that, for the first half, interest costs would mask the expected growth of profits for the full year.

## Kwik Save figures fall short

By Gillian Bowditch

SHARES in Kwik Save, the discount supermarket group, fell 46p to 470p after disappointment with its first-half results. The slide knocked £69 million off the market capitalisation of the company.

Pre-tax profits rose from £35.3 million to £39.5 million for the six months to March 1990, up from £35.3 million. Analysts had been expecting the group to break through the £40 million level.

Sales rose 28 per cent to £785 million and earnings per share increased 12 per cent, in line with profits, to 16.8p. Like-for-like sales, excluding inflation, rose 12 per cent. The interim dividend had been lifted 16 per cent to 3.7p. Interest received fell to £2 million (£2.5 million).

Mr Graeme Seabrook, managing director and chief executive, acknowledged the results were seen as disappointing and said profits had been affected by a number of factors not present during the comparable period last year.

The most significant was the cost of integrating Victor Value, the chain of supermarkets Kwik Save bought from Iceland last February. The cost of additional scanning equipment and the fact that interest received was down because of a change in the law relating to the timing of corporation tax payment also contributed.

Kwik Save opened 10 new stores, relocated three and refurbished 46 in the first half. It now runs 650 stores and plans to open a further 20 in the second half. The group operates Tates Lateshoppers, a chain of stores.



Disappointing: Sir Timothy Harford, (back), chairman of Kwik Save, with Graeme Seabrook yesterday

## Maxwell's 14.9% Bell stake blocked

From Brian Buchanan  
Sydney

David Aspinall, Bell Group's managing director.

MR ROBERT Maxwell, the publisher, emerged as the buyer of the 19.9 per cent stake sold by the West Australian State Government insurance Commission on Friday.

Media analysts said Mr Maxwell's interest in Bell was almost certainly linked to Bell's ownership of the *West Australian*, a daily broadsheet newspaper.

They said his involvement was not completely unexpected, given his often-stated

interest in buying into Australian media.

The 14.9 per cent stake is just below the 15 per cent level, which involves notification to Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board.

However, both sales have been put on hold after the NCSC secured an ex parte interim injunction in the Federal Court in Melbourne freezing the Friday sale.

The NCSC said it wanted to examine the circumstances of both the Maxwell purchase

and Friday's sale, in which Mr Aspinall bought 16.57 per cent of the company. He was forced to sell the shares after it became clear the acquisition breached the Takeover Code.

Earlier yesterday, Dr Arthur McHugh, the executive director of the NCSC, said: "It appears the original sale to Mr Aspinall was a breach of the Takeover Code because Mr Aspinall, a senior Bond Corp executive, might have been an associate of Bond Corp, Bell Group's main shareholder."

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Knight fights the good fight

THE appointment of former Stock Exchange chief executive Jeffrey Knight as a special adviser to the Federation of Stock Exchanges in the European Community — as revealed in this column this week — has raised a few eyebrows in official Stock Exchange circles. Those eyebrows, raised with pleasure rather than dismay, have been elevated primarily because his task in this new role will be to devise an exchange system to embrace the Continent's top 300 companies. For Knight has apparently crossed swords with key EC members in the past. The "run in" referred to was with the Germans, who disagreed with his proposals for capital adequacy for securities firms. "They wanted them to be far stricter, since they have such a strong banking history, and far less entrepreneurial, which would have put a number of small independent British firms out of business," my inside source reveals. But those proposals have since been redrafted twice, and become even less stringent in the process. "It must have been a unanimous decision to appoint him and so he must now have the support of the Germans," my intrigued informant continued. And his appointment is seen as "tremendously good news" for the City.

Peter Binns, who founded the Bains Cornwall firm 10 years ago — and has since suffered the triple blow of ill-health and the disintegration of both the firm and his marriage — is about to return. Binns, a popular and normally bubbly man, will become a director of another PR firm, the Haggie Company, with effect from Monday. He will be taking a number of his old and loyal clients with him, and will be given a share stake in due course. The Haggie Company was founded by chartered accountant David Haggie — once finance director of the quoted video and television production company Molinare Visions, now part of WH Smith — four years ago. "I've known Peter for quite a long time — he had once wanted me to join him at Bains Cornwall," Haggie says. "He has had a rotten time and has been treated badly. I have always liked him and think this move could be mutually beneficial." A warm welcome awaits him, I know....

**Compact brains**  
THE much-publicized theft of £292 million of Treasury Bills and Certificates of Deposit from a Sheppards Money Broker messenger in King William Street yesterday has clearly caused some puzzlement in certain less-sophisticated City circles. Upon hearing that the messenger had been "relieved" — in quaint Bank of England speak — of £122 million of CDs, two young female yellow jackets (juniors) of the floor of the Lime market were heard to remark: "How on earth did he manage to fit 122 million CDs in his bag?"

● **FOUR yachts which were spotted on the same day in Auckland Harbour: Tequila Sunrise, Gin Fizz, Whisky Galore and Cirrhosis of the River.**

**Naming of blocks**  
IN A contest which reveals a rare insight into the mentality of its employees, Smith New Court has been inviting its staff to suggest a name for its lavish new office block in Farringdon Road. A 140,000 sq ft building, due to be completed early next year — which Smith New Court is leasing from the Ladbrooke subsidiary Gable House Developments — it will boast a large car park, two squash courts, a swimming pool, fully staffed gymnasium and a staff restaurant — all in stark contrast to its present abode in St Swithin's Lane, which is well known to be among the most functional in the City.



**Binns bounces in**  
ONE of the best known characters in the world of public relations,

### Oil and water

THE fall-out at County Nat-West WoodMac, as a direct result of the firm's dramatic recruitment of up to 100 one-time employees of the defunct American firm Drexel Burnham Lambert, continues. In February, Tim Ferguson, the ambitious and comparatively new managing director of County Nat-West Securities, was priding himself on having netted so many key individuals from the debris of the collapsed firm, both in the US and elsewhere. But now the cracks in the attempt to weld the two management teams together are, it seems, beginning to show. And able equity sales supremo Richard Williamson — a pillar of the Stock Exchange Ski Club — who had been poached from Warburg Securities to take responsibility for WoodMac's European and international development has resigned. "It was by mutual agreement," says County. But word is that one of the aforementioned Drexel recruits was about to be introduced over his head, and so he did the only honourable thing. He should not be unemployed for long.

Carol Leonard

### The Guinness trial

#### Auditor's letter was 'wrongly weighted'

THE senior Guinness auditor misled company directors into thinking he had continually wished to raise worrying deals linked to the Distillers bid with them, it was alleged at Southwark Crown Court.

Mr Howard Hughes, responsible for the Guinness account with Price Waterhouse, was said to have written to board members after allegations were made of improper transactions during the 1986 takeover and implicating Mr Ernest Saunders, the dismissed Guinness chief.

Mr Hughes told the court the wording of his letter, dated January 9, 1987, was wrongly weighted.

It related to four areas of concern discovered by the auditors, including £25 million of confidential payments.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, defending Mr Saunders, read the first paragraph of Mr Hughes' letter. It said: "You may be aware I have on a number of occasions expressed concern that all directors should be aware of certain transactions relating to the company's affairs and in particular the acquisition of Distillers."

Mr Hughes agreed he replied to a Department of Trade inspector that a letter from Mr Oliver Roux, the finance director, changed the complexion of the situation.

In response to Mr Ferguson on the opening paragraph of his letter to the board, he said: "I think the weight of it was wrong."

Mr Hughes was asked if it was ever suggested Mr Saunders should have the opportunity to explain his version of events. "There were discussions from time to time about whether he might have information which was useful but I do not believe the company made or approved any of our people making such an approach," he said.

But he denied Lord Ivaugh, the Guinness president, told him that if the investigation was eased Mr Saunders would be more co-operative.

Mr Saunders, aged 54, and three others variously deny 24 counts including theft, false accounting, and breaches of the Companies Act.

The trial continues today.

### COMMENT

## A Texan walks tall in the shadow of Charter

Johnson Matthey fell victim to a change of pace at the main beneficiary.

But while the improvement brought about under Gene was undeniable, those with a more critical eye were heard to say that he did nothing that should not have been expected of a highly paid and generously incentivized Harvard MBA, and that the time was approaching for a change of style in any case. Some even claimed the company had become a little flabby. That view could be reinforced by the measures being put in train by his successor, David Davies, a man who has had more top jobs than most of us have had suits. Johnson Matthey is to undergo an expensive restructuring of the kind which, if it is necessary, perhaps should have been carried out under the recovery programme.

Charter, surprise, surprise, declared itself supportive of the restructuring which will knock up to £15 million off profits, blow a hole below the line and which has already knocked the shares back by 20 per cent. Johnson Matthey's other major shareholder, Cookson, with 8 per cent, said nothing. Either Cookson is bidding its time for a clever move, or it is wondering why it purchased the shares in the first place. Its "strategic investment" currently appears as a loss leader.

Meanwhile, Gene has moved on to the yet greater challenge of Ferranti. If he cleans up there as he cleaned up at Johnson Matthey, everyone should be happy. Especially Gene.

## Red rose blossoms in City

Labour's growing liaison with the

City could blossom into a torrid love affair if its intentions for the economy are all as well received as the disclosure that a Kinnock government would want only the National Grid company returned to public ownership. The rest of the electricity industry would be left where Mrs Thatcher intends to put it — with the private sector.

The new face of socialism yesterday took on a sudden beauty for the utility sector analysts, and the power sell-off that starts this autumn should now be much easier. As Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, made clear when disclosing the modest re-nationalization idea, tougher regulation and long-term energy strategy are Labour's real concerns, not who owns the industry.

The news was music to the ears of James Capel, the Government's broker, which is tuning up its marketing show for institutional investors. Now their salesmen can say that electricity is a good deal whatever the government — a "win-win" opportunity. In the event of a Labour government, the parts of the industry of value to investors would remain with their private owners. The distributor companies would hardly mourn the dubious loss of the jointly-owned grid.

Like nuclear power, it was probably best left with government in the first place.

Of much more concern is the low level of the shares of the water companies, the issue which was designed and priced to whet the appetites of investors for the much more difficult-to-swallow electricity package. Unless the stem of water sellers can be staunched, the price for electricity will have to be even lower than current estimates.

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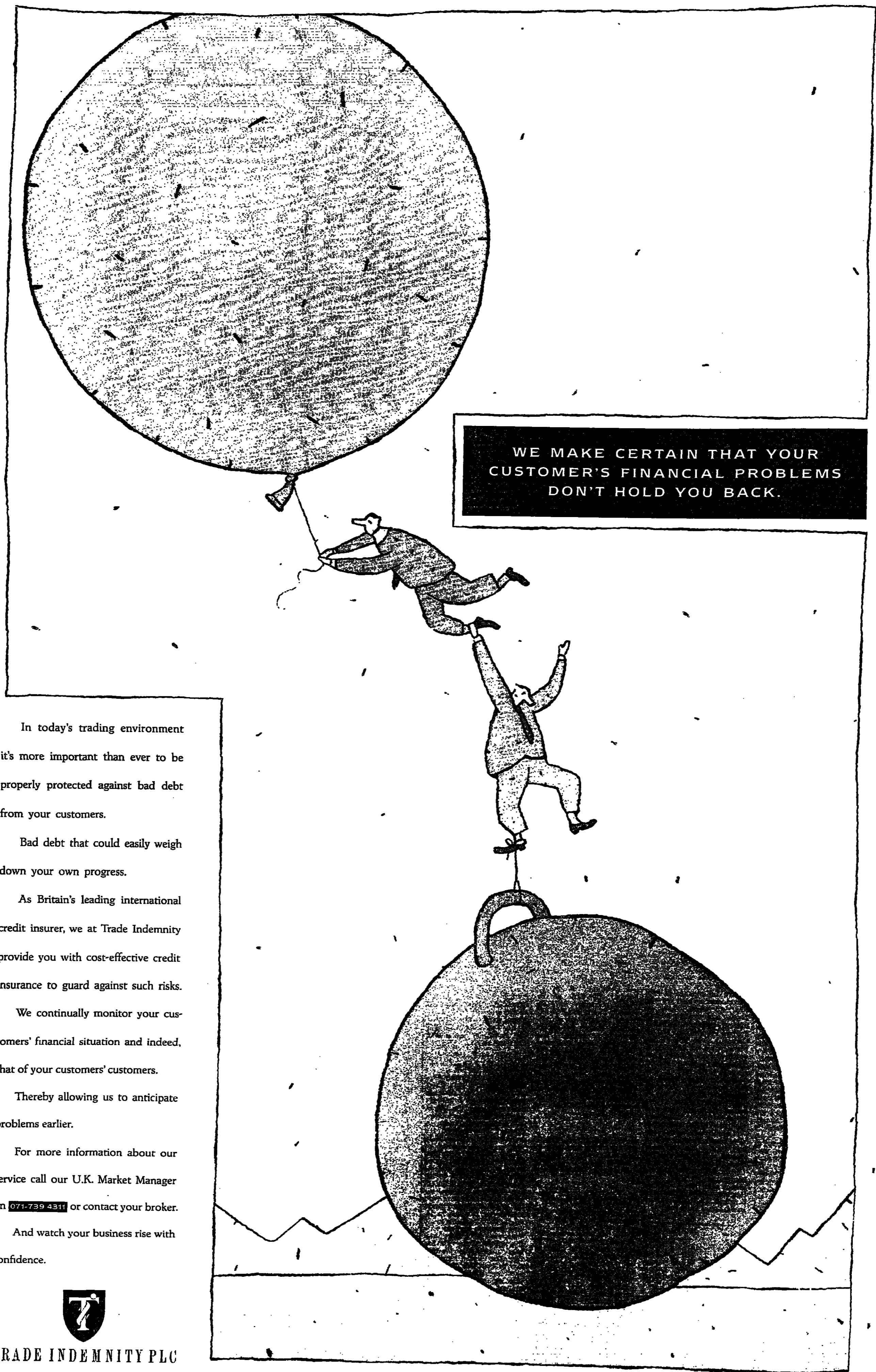
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WORKING CAPITAL ON COMMAND

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British purchases  
boost  
Fitzwilton

G General Acci

POLL RES

Results of the poll, which was  
conducted by The Times  
held on Wednesday 2 May  
for the purpose of considering  
the need for a new non-life  
General Accident Insurer.

General Accident Fire and  
Life Corporation plc, the  
holders of General Accident  
and General Accident  
were duly passed by the  
Accident Insurance  
Act 1982.

Subject to the approach  
as anticipated the new  
will become effective  
with effect from 1 July 1990.

General Accident Fire and  
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# GEC and BAe in the race to run £2bn helicopter project

By Angela Mackay

AT LEAST five companies have submitted expressions of interest to become prime contractor on the £2 billion EH101 Merlin helicopter project.

The principal contenders are GEC, British Aerospace, Boeing and IBM. Westland also registered its interest, but is unlikely to be awarded the contract because it lacks the financial influence needed to pull the project in line.

The Ministry of Defence will stop taking applications on May 18 and the tender competition will start in June. The prime contractor will be awarded the contract by the end of this year and will be responsible for keeping the project within a specified budget.

Sir Peter Levene, chief of defence procurement at the ministry, became worried about the galloping costs of the project last year, when it also became clear that the helicopter would not be ready for delivery by the end of 1992. In 1986, the Government budgeted £1.3 billion development costs. That figure has been exceeded by more than £500 million.

In February, a parliamentary defence committee said that if costs for the EH101 looked like rising much more "it could prompt the Govern-

ment to question the viability of the entire programme."

Westland has already flown eight of nine pre-production Merlin, which has military and civil models. Last week, a commercial variant designed to carry 30 passengers made its maiden flight.

The helicopter has been jointly developed by Westland and Gruppo Agusta of Italy. They are confident it will find a commercial market, particularly since an anti-vibration system has made the ride much quieter and smoother. Westland is confident it will prove popular with the offshore oil industry.

Systems integration has proved the project's major stumbling block. Westland has said the various radar, sonar and weapons suites have been successfully married, but that there are still hitches, mostly related to spiralling costs.

Mr Alan Jones, Westland's chief executive who has been at the helm for one year, is anxious to have the first production order placed by the end of 1991. Even though Westland's new strategy focuses on civil aviation, military orders provide critical development funds and ensure the maintenance of the company's specialist work-force.



Worried about escalating costs: Sir Peter Levene

## British purchases boost Fitzwilson

By Our City Staff

ACQUISITIONS in its British motor and cash and carry businesses helped Fitzwilson, the Irish holding company, take its recovery much further in 1989.

Pre-tax profits were £12.1 million (£11.8 million), against £5.3 million in the previous 18-month period.

Earnings per share of 19.12p against 19.8p increased 56 per cent on an annualised basis.

The dividend of 13.5p compares with 12.5p for the previous 12 months.

Keep Trust, the motor distribution business, was included for seven months and M6 Cash & Carry, which joined the earlier Roy Hall acquisition, for five months. Motor, cash and carry and the Irish specialized manufacturing businesses all increased contributions.

The motor side, which accounts for about 40 per cent of ongoing profits is still holding its own, thanks to Vauxhall distributions and because most of its profits do not come directly from car sales.

The cash and carry division, which accounts for about 30 per cent of ongoing profits and is mainly geared to low-price items and food, is still moving ahead.

Last week, Fitzwilson, which is headed by Mr Tony O'Reilly, chairman of HJ Heinz, completed an £80 million subscription for 29.9 per cent of Waterford Wedgwood, the ailing international tableware group, in partnership with Morgan Stanley, US investment bank.

Fitzwilson's initial investment of 12.25 million, which is showing an initial loss, represents about a fifth of its total assets, but is seen as the long-term basis for a new core division in branded products.

Meanwhile, the group plans to expand further by buying individual motor distributorships and cash and carry businesses.

## Keller sold in £26m buyout from GKN

By Derek Harris

GKN, the engineering group, has sold its foundations division — a specialist in building services and site foundations engineering — to its management for £26.2 million.

For GKN, it is not a core business but Keller, as it will now be known, has been growing internationally including by acquisition.

In the year to last December it had a turnover of £101.5 million with a profit, before interest and tax, of £4.4 million.

The deal represents a premium over net assets of 27.1 million.

Keller has developed into a leading international specialist in its field providing services to the construction industry.

These include solving problems of foundation support, underpinning, ground retention, ground water control and seismic protection.

Keller believes it has identified a growing environmental protection market.

Dr Michael West, Keller's chief executive, said: "Keller will be able to take full advantage of the opportunities for expansion that exist across our business and provide effective incentives for our senior staff."

Keller has two operational bases in Britain at Coventry, West Midlands, and Wetherby, West Yorkshire, with others in West Germany and Maryland in the United States.

It expanded into Germany in 1974 by acquisition. This was followed by takeovers in the United States and Britain between 1984 and 1986. But there has also been organic growth.

The management buyout is being funded by a mixture of equity — from Canderover Investments, the venture capitalists — and debt provided by Bank of Scotland and Berliner Bank.



## General Accident

### POLL RESULTS

Results of the polls taken at the meetings convened by The Court of Session and held on Wednesday, 2nd May 1990 for the purpose of considering a Scheme of Arrangement in connection with the establishment of a new non-insurance holding company 'General Accident plc'.

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc is pleased to announce that the resolutions put, respectively, to meetings of the holders of General Accident Ordinary Shares and General Accident Convertible Loan Notes, were duly passed by the requisite majorities in accordance with Section 425(2) of the Companies Act 1985.

Subject to the approval of The Court of Session it is anticipated that the Scheme of Arrangement will become effective on 6th July 1990.

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc  
World Headquarters: Pitlochry, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NQ.

## Record earnings from an international business.

### Six points from Julian Ogilvie Thompson's Chairman's Statement for 1989.

#### The diamond market

De Beers announced an increase in attributable profits to R2865 million (US\$1127 million) and a 40% increase in dividends. For the seventh year in succession, world retail sales of diamond jewellery set another record. However, as anticipated, growth slowed to a more normal rate and it was a year of consolidation in rough diamond sales. The rough diamond market was strong in the first part of 1990 and we expect another satisfactory year.

#### New Swiss company

The diamond industry operates on a global basis. In 1989 80% of De Beers' attributable profits were earned outside South Africa. In recognition of this, we have proposed the establishment of a Swiss based company, De Beers Centenary AG, to hold the foreign interests of the group. De Beers and De Beers Centenary AG will continue to co-operate closely to maintain the stability of the industry. These proposals have been well received by the stock market and the substantial re-rating of De Beers will stand shareholders and the industry in good stead in the years to come.

#### Namibian independence

De Beers and our subsidiary CDM applaud Namibia's admission to the community of nations and, as longstanding corporate citizens, reaffirm our commitment to its

## Campbell Soup cuts 19% of HQ jobs

From John Dury, New York

THE new chief executive of the Campbell Soup company, Mr David Johnson, has wasted little time in making his mark.

He slashed head office staff numbers by 19 per cent this week.

The move, which will see 364 jobs disappear from the company's New Jersey head office, comes shortly after similar cuts in its British operations.

Last month, Mr Johnson reorganized the UK Freshbake operations, which resulted in staff numbers being cut by 40 per cent.

Mr Johnson took over as chief executive in January when the company was plagued by a split among the Dorrance family, its majority shareholder, over the company's financial performance.

Campbell ranks as one of the worst performers in the United States food industry despite its brand names and Mr Johnson told *The Times* recently about his plans to inject a more profit-oriented approach within the company.

Mr Johnson, who described the head office cuts as a "dramatic culture change," expects to save \$17 million a year on the total wages bill.

VPI is also set to change the name of the American organization in an attempt to distance itself from Mr Carter, aged 41, who has also admitted filing false tax returns. He will be sentenced next month.

Charges against him carry a maximum 11 years' prison term and fines of \$2 million.

The tax evasion charges carry penalties of \$2 million. But any prison sentence is expected to be limited to a maximum of four years. Mr

## President to leave Carter as part of cost-cutting drive

From Philip Robinson  
Los Angeles

MR Arthur Ross, the president and co-chief executive of the Carter Organisation, the American division of VPI Group, the public relations consultant, is leaving as part of a move to cut the company's costs.

Six weeks ago, Mr Donald Carter, the founder of the American company, admitted stealing more than \$1 million from clients over a two-year period.

Mr Ross, aged 48, who has been with Carter, which is based in New York, since 1985, said business could be better, and that his departure is part of a programme of cuts in administration costs.

He is one of a number of senior executives who will leave Carter before the end of the month.

VPI is also set to change the name of the American organization in an attempt to distance itself from Mr Carter, aged 41, who has also admitted filing false tax returns. He will be sentenced next month.

Our own investigation is still going on. But we are still hoping to find out more about this \$1 million restitution fund and how it will operate for our clients."

Mr Ross will continue with Carter for a few months, after which he will hand over the reins to Mr Dennis Mensch, aged 37, co-chief executive in charge of client services.

## Tullow Oil to raise £5.68m

TULLOW Oil, the Irish oil and gas exploration company, is raising £5.68 million (£5.68 million) through a rights and warrants issue to help finance its expansion programme.

The rights issue, which is fully underwritten, will involve 31.3 million new ordinary shares and on the basis of 8-for-24, at £1.13 per share.

Shareholders are also being offered three warrants for every eight shares taken up. The warrants entitle shareholders to subscribe for one new share per warrant at £1.85p.

### Multitrust loss

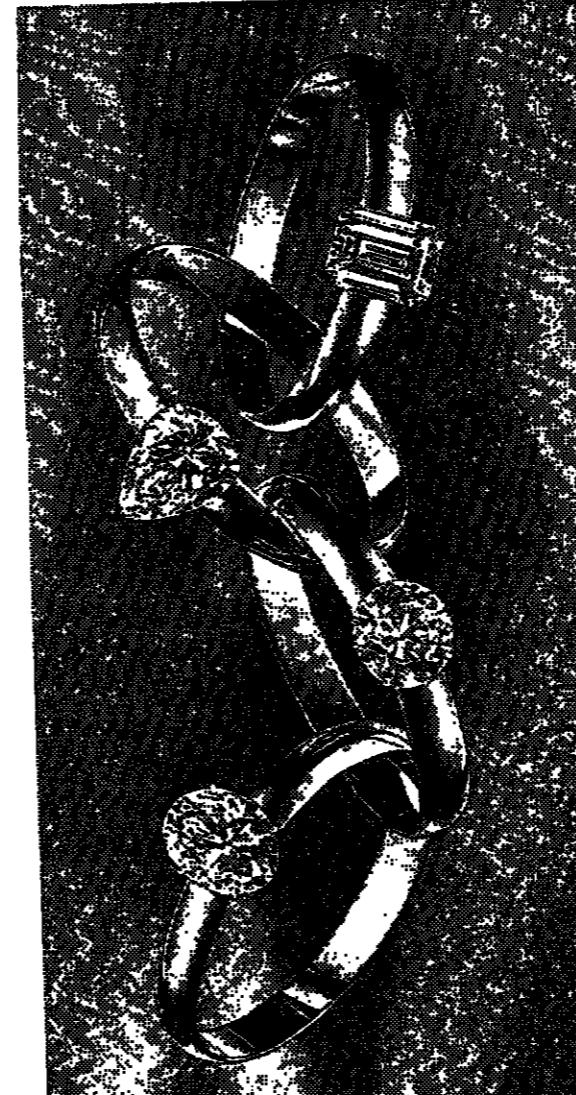
Multitrust, the investment trust, is not paying a dividend despite an interim forecast of 0.5p. It made a loss of £14,430 in the six months to end-March, compared with a pre-tax revenue of £9,833. There is a 0.41p loss per share, against earnings of 0.25p.

### Philips holding

Philips, the Dutch consumer group, has taken a 25 per cent stake in Bang & Olufsen, the Danish audio group, for DKK340 million (£32.4 million).

### IEP lifts stake

Sir Ron Brierley's IEP Securities has raised its stake in United Scientific Holdings to 26.2 per cent.



#### Investments in Botswana

In Botswana, the major crush plant at Jwaneng will come on stream in mid-year. Debswana has also announced the establishment of a new diamond cutting factory, creating 500 jobs in the first phase. Work is on schedule at the US\$362 million Sua Pan Soda Ash project, in which De Beers has a 12.75% interest.

#### Major new mine

The new US\$430 million Venetia diamond mine in the Northern Transvaal represents a major investment in the future of South Africa. Venetia will have a life of at least 20 years, and will yield 4 million carats a year of medium quality diamonds. Employing 750 people, it will have a substantial multiplier effect on economic activity in the area. Full production will be reached in 1992. Total production from Debswana and De Beers increased by 2% in 1989 to 24.8 million carats.

#### South Africa

De Beers welcomes the dramatic developments in South Africa, which have profound implications for the entire sub-continent. It is to be hoped that a new constitution and bill of rights will facilitate the creation of a prosperous, non-racial, multi-party democracy which could be the engine of growth for a region that desperately needs an escape from poverty. We believe that all people must have access to the market place as much as to the ballot box if they are to create wealth for themselves and prosperity for their country. De Beers will continue its programme of social investment, and maintain its role as an agent for positive change.

**De Beers**

## BUSINESS LETTERS

## Encouraging savers to share ownership

*From Dr Maurice Gillibrand*  
Sir, May I refer to your report (April 20) on the conference of the Institute of Economic Affairs dealing with the problems of encouraging share ownership as a form of savings.

Proposals by Mr Edgar Palamoumian, chairman of the Wider Share Ownership Council, included the abolition of capital gains tax and an encouragement to companies to distribute more of the profits as dividends.

In my view, the second of these proposals should be expanded to a requirement within the Companies Act for companies to distribute annually all of the profits, after deductions for depreciation, as dividends with future capital requirements being raised by the issue of new shares.

The practice of retaining

part of the profits seems to me to be a curtailment of market forces which should provide shareholders with a free choice of how they invest further their money.

One consequence would be that "savers" would be more attracted to share ownership since they would be able to identify more directly the rewards of their investments as being equivalent to the interest on a building society deposit.

A further consequence would be to reduce the capital appreciation of shares, and perhaps capital gains tax would become unnecessary. Yours faithfully,

MAURICE GILLIBRAND,  
7 Tal-y-Cae,  
Tregarth,  
Bangor,  
Gwynedd.  
April 24.

## Genuine duty-free prices on offer

*From Mr James Rusbridge*

Sir, Mr Clegg asks (April 24) how it was possible to buy a bottle of whisky in Dubai for the equivalent of £1.64. The answer is very simple.

Gin or whisky bought in container loads will be delivered into duty-free stores, or what are sometimes called "ships" stores, around the world, including Heathrow, at about £1 a bottle.

The shop in Dubai was evidently content to make 65p profit on 61 per cent mark-up so Mr Clegg was enjoying a genuine duty-free price and there is no reason why shops at Heathrow should not offer the same. Describing shops at our airports as being duty-free comes perilously close to infringing the Trades Description Act. At best they are discount shops and sometimes not particularly competitive with the High Street.

The most dangerous aspect of duty-free shopping at airports is that it encourages people to take on board aircraft bottles of inflammable liquid that could break loose and hinder escape in an otherwise survivable accident. A far better system - as used in Australia - would be to allow passengers to buy their duty-free before leaving the airport at their destination. Yours faithfully,

JAMES RUSBRIDGE,  
Tremorebridge, Lanivet,  
Bedmin, Cornwall.  
April 15.

## The CBI's duty to warn of consequences

*From the Director General of the CBI*

Sir, Kenneth Fleet singles out Sir Trevor Holdsworth and me for criticism in his recent article (*The Times*, April 14). He appears to have misunderstood both the current economic situation and the message that the CBI is putting across.

He is quite right to say that it is industry's responsibility for keeping the show on the road and to increase investment levels to match the best in Europe.

Industry has accepted the challenge. Business investment in fixed capital is now 40 per cent up on three years ago and our surveys show that investment in training and innovation has also risen significantly. Our Pay Data Bank shows that productivity

growth in manufacturing is being maintained at around 6 per cent a year. The results can be seen in our export performance since 1986, manufacturing exports have increased in volume terms by 38 per cent.

Interest rates need to remain high to get on top of inflation, but British industry continues to be handicapped by the intrusion of reality.

Business costs which are controlled by Government (eg, local authority rates and electricity prices) are rising at more than double the rate of increase in West Germany.

## Industry supine over wage inflation

*From Mr Philip Muston*

Sir, Your headline "Industry Fear of Surge in Wage Claims" (April 23) shows that the CBI has at last awakened to the wage inflation hazard which became fairly obvious to the man in the street at least 18 months ago.

But what puzzles this man in the street is industry's supine attitude. Why are not wage increases rejected unless fully covered by real productivity increases? Why is it so readily accepted that an excessive wage claim is something

to be feared rather than firmly opposed?

Is it that the excessive salary increases taken by upper and middle management have weakened their will to resist? Why does not the CBI do something to live up to the first word of its title and attempt to co-ordinate resistance to wage-based inflation?

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP MUSTON,  
37 Sandy Lane,  
Petersham,  
Richmond upon Thames,  
Surrey.

Boring entry

*From Mr Jeremy Maurice*

Sir, The partners at Ernst & Young can take heart. Whilst their abseiling exploits may convince many that accountants are not boring (City Diary, April 24), British Telecom needs no persuading. Under the entry "Boring" in the Yellow Pages, it says "See Civil Engineers".  
Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY MAURICE,  
All Saints Chambers,  
Holbeck House,  
9/11 Broad Street, Bristol.  
April 24.

## An umbrella for B&amp;C shareholders

*From Mrs Judith Lyons*

Sir, I act for Mr David Cornwell of Monte Carlo, who has 50,000 ordinary shares in British & Commonwealth, having purchased the majority of them after April 1989.

Aspects to be considered are the Atlantic Computer acquisitions and write-off, the plan of the board to sell off profitable subsidiaries as "management buyouts", and the best way for shareholders to protect company assets and themselves, and to investigate the possibility of claims against the board. Please contact these offices if you wish to take part, asking for me or Peter Moody.

Yours faithfully,  
JUDITH LYONS,  
Nathan, Silman,  
Solicitors,  
Osprey House,  
78 Wigmore Street,  
LONDON W1.

April 27.

## Dubai aimed to Scotch the competition

*From Mr Barry Hughes*

Sir, Having been connected with the trade at the time, I believe the answer to Mr Clegg's query (April 24) as to the reason for the extraordinarily low price for Scotch whisky at Dubai Airport is roughly the following.

The Dubai Government was anxious to attract transit passengers (generally in long-haul aircraft) to land at Dubai rather than at other Gulf or nearby airports. One way was

1,000 to 100,000 shares have expressed their desire to attend or assist.

Aspects to be considered are the Atlantic Computer acquisitions and write-off, the plan of the board to sell off profitable subsidiaries as "management buyouts", and the best way for shareholders to protect company assets and themselves, and to investigate the possibility of claims against the board. Please contact these offices if you wish to take part, asking for me or Peter Moody.

Yours faithfully,

BARRY HUGHES,

4 Monkham's Avenue,

Woodford Green, Essex.

## LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Calls	Puts	Calls	Puts
Barclays	500 45 40 45 45	5143 22%	500 45 40 45 45	5143 22%
(45)	450 9 50 45 45	5087 10%	450 9 50 45 45	5087 10%
ASBA	100 65 65 65 65	511 11 11	200 65 65 65 65	511 11 11
(15)	110 3 5 17 17 14	520 30 30 30 30	220 15 45 5 24 32	520 30 30 30 30
BBM	120 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	230 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(35)	120 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	240 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Bear Stearns	500 125 125 125 125	520 30 30 30 30	250 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(354)	500 28 28 28 28	520 30 30 30 30	260 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Bectel	1000 20 45 45 45	520 30 30 30 30	270 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(259)	200 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	280 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Bell & T	200 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	290 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(170)	220 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	300 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Bell Com	500 50 50 50 50	520 30 30 30 30	310 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(104)	220 5 5 31 31 31	520 30 30 30 30	320 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
BP	200 1 71 71 71	520 30 30 30 30	330 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(306)	200 2 2 2 2 2	520 30 30 30 30	340 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
BHP	200 24 24 24 24	520 30 30 30 30	350 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(259)	200 24 24 24 24	520 30 30 30 30	360 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
BHS Steel	120 24 24 24 24	520 30 30 30 30	370 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(140)	120 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	380 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
C & P	400 18 18 18 18	520 30 30 30 30	390 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(476)	500 18 18 18 18	520 30 30 30 30	400 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Coca-Cola	400 18 18 18 18	520 30 30 30 30	410 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(298)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	420 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Comcast	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	430 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(261)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	440 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Concordia	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	450 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(268)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	460 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Corus	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	470 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(261)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	480 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Davidson	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	490 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(261)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Dow	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	510 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(384)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	520 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Emerson	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	530 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(352)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	540 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Exxon	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	550 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(317)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	560 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Ford	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	570 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(422)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	580 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
General Mills	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	590 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(312)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	600 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Hewlett-Packard	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	610 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(312)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	620 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Hill & Knowlton	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	630 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
(312)	500 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30	640 15 15 15 15	520 30 30 30 30
Holiday Inn	500 1			

# “WE WON AN AWARD FOR DEMONSTRATING THAT OUR EQUIPMENT MET EUROPEAN STANDARDS”

Sheerness Steel won a National Training Award by using their brains.

With the Single European Market on the horizon, the management set their sights on doubling output by 1992.

And it didn't take long for them to see where the growth potential lay. In their most precious resource, the workforce.

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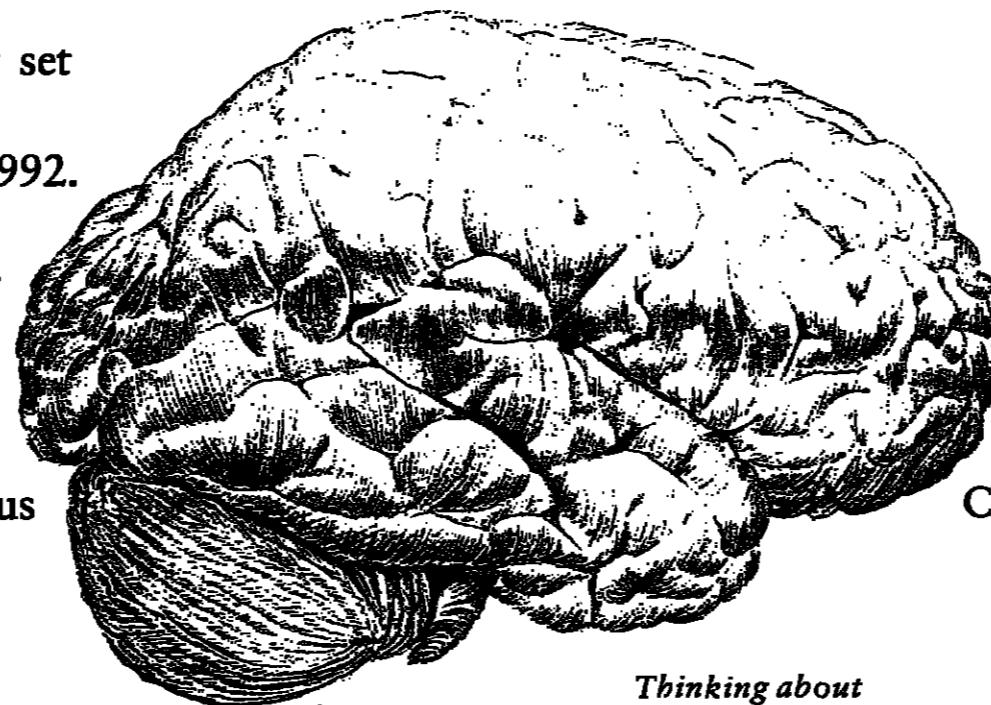
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Now, productivity levels are above Germany's average. And the number of days lost due to accidents has been halved.

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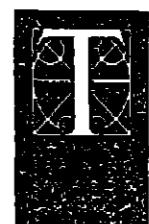
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## ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	
ADT	2,556	CU	1,300	Lloyds	2,513
Abbey Nat	2,559	Cookson	670	Lloyd Abb	692
ABF-Lyons	745	Courtaulds	1,982	Searle	1,174
American	2,120	Dixons	2,239	Shell	4,566
ASDA	2,200	ECC	1,049	Siemens	671
AB Foods	8,108	Enterprise	888	Monoprice	433
Argyll	1,700	Ferranti	6,978	Skf	74
B&P	1,000	Germann	1,047	Smith & N	1,047
BET	81	Fisons	1,074	Maxwell Cr	478
BTR	2,282	FIK	1,682	SK Beach	2,761
BAT	1,048	Gen Acc	1,755	MGD	195
Berkeley	1,228	GEC	3,511	Smithkline	3,524
Bentley	2,285	Global	2,030	Smithkline	1,024
Bersfeld Ind	283	Globe Inv	78	Smithkline	1,024
BCCI	278	Glynn	2,588	Stobart	1,071
Bell Circle	1,284	Granada	2,550	T & N	170
BOC	544	Hewlett Packard	1,882	T Group	1,024
Boots	808	GUS 'A'	238	Tate & Lyle	2,505
BPB	1,038	Gulf Oil Met	1,882	Prudential	2,230
Brown	2,280	Gulf Oil Met	1,882	Tate & Lyle	2,505
Bt Airways	122	Gulf Oil Met	1,882	Tate & Lyle	2,505
Bt Comm	n/a	Hanson	1,028	Tate & Lyle	2,505
Bt Gas	8,108	Do Wh	155	Tate & Lyle	2,505
Bt Land	88	H & C	1,478	Tatnall	4,244
Bt Steel	7,687	Hillman	224	Telstar	1,024
Bt Telecom	6,132	Hillsdown	1,349	Ulsterman	725
Bt Wash	1,041	ICL	611	Unilever	974
Bunzl	1,236	Imperial	8,056	Unilever	974
Burton	1,763	IBM	628	Unilever	974
C&W	2,005	Imperial	8,056	Unilever	974
Cadbury	1,020	ITC	611	Unilever	974
Carlton	834	Iomega	550	Unilever	974
Costas	689	Jubilee	1,772	Whitbread	1,257
		Kingsfisher	568	Wimpy	1,563
		Latrobe	1,236	Wimpy	1,563
		Leisure	1,707	Wimpy	1,563
		Lifecare	1,135	Wimpy	1,563
		Logistics	4,244	Wimpy	1,563
		Scourby	1,772	Wimpy	1,563
		Scott & N	2,197	Wimpy	1,563

## WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Daily Value	Yearly %	Daily Change	Yearly Change	Daily (\$)	Yearly (\$)	Daily (£)	Yearly (£)
The World (free)	705.4	0.8	-16.4	1.1	-12.2	1.0	-15.0	1.0
EAFE (free)	1,236.0	1.3	-20.7	1.3	-15.6	1.4	-19.3	1.5
Europe (free)	126.9	1.3	-20.9	2.2	-15.8	1.5	-18.6	1.5
Nth America (free)	154.9	0.7	-5.4	0.8	-5.7	0.8	-3.8	0.8
Nordic (free)	496.2	0.0	-7.8	0.2	-6.2	0.2	-8.2	0.2
Pacific (free)	234.2	0.4	-0.4	0.8	-4.9	0.5	-3.2	0.5
Far East	2,806.4	1.8	-29.2	1.6	-21.4	1.9	-28.0	1.9
Australia	406.7	1.7	-29.7	1.6	-21.8	1.9	-28.5	1.9
Austria	291.5	2.5	-16.1	1.9	-10.3	2.6	-14.7	2.6
Belgium	910.7	0.6	-7.5	1.0	-8.1	0.7	-5.9	0.7
Canada	496.8	-0.1	-17.3	0.2	-15.2	0.3	-15.9	0.3
Denmark	1,285.2	-0.3	-2.4	0.0	-3.4	-0.1	-0.7	-0.7
Finland	99.9	-0.2	-13.4	0.0	-13.4	-0.1	-11.9	-0.1
France	137.1	-1.2	-8.0	-10.0	-8.0	-1.1	-8.4	-1.1
Germany	830.3	0.6	-2.7	0.8	-2.1	0.7	-4.4	0.7
Hong Kong	2297.3	0.5	-3.6	0.6	-5.1	0.6	-5.3	0.6
Italy	380.7	-0.1	-12.1	-0.1	-22.2	0.0	-0.4	-0.4
Japan	4,278.3	1.8	-30.6	1.7	-22.8	2.2	-29.5	2.2
Netherlands	869.1	0.2	-8.1	0.4	-7.3	0.4	-8.5	0.4
New Zealand	83.5	1.1	-19.0	0.9	-14.1	1.2	-17.6	1.2
Norway	1510.2	2.2	-12.5	2.3	-13.2	2.3	-14.4	2.3
Sing/Malay	1836.3	-0.4	-7.9	-0.3	-7.7	-0.3	-6.4	-0.3
Spain	212.8	0.0	-9.7	0.0	-11.1	0.1	-8.2	0.1
Sweden	1612.4	0.2	-8.1	0.4	-7.9	0.3	-6.5	0.3
(free)	232.1	0.1	-4.1	0.3	-3.9	0.2	-2.5	0.2
Switzerland	852.4	0.3	-6.8	0.6	-10.4	0.5	-5.2	0.5
(free)	130.0	0.4	-6.8	0.7	-10.4	0.5	-5.3	0.5
UK	683.2	0.8	-12.2	0.8	-12.2	0.8	-10.7	0.8
USA	449.7	0.0	-6.9	0.2	-5.4	0.2	-5.4	0.2

(ft) Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

## STOCK MARKET

## Dealers find little cheer despite extended rally

SHARE prices extended this week's rally with what dealers described as the classic "dead-cat bounce" — an upward movement following a sharp fall, but displaying few signs of life.

An overnight rise on Wall Street encouraged a few cheap buyers early in the session in London, putting market-makers on the defensive in thin conditions. But dealers complained of little real follow-through and said the turnover figure of 433 million shares had been artificially boosted by several small programme trades.

As a result, prices closed below their best levels of the day, with the FT-SE 100 index ending 19.7 points up at 2,137.6, having been 27 points higher at one stage. The FT index of 30 shares rose 14.5 to 1,678.0.

Government securities clawed their way back after a dull start to end 2% higher at the longer end, supported by another firm performance from sterling.

Among leaders, British Steel rose 24p to 140p, helped by a recommendation from BZW. Racal Telecom climbed 12p to 327p, revived by a bullish recommendation from Wartburg Securities, the broker. Wartburg calculates the group's net asset value at almost 450p a share and believes there is still plenty of scope for growth in the cellular telephone market. Both the Racal "twins" have been a dull market of late, with unwanted stock trickling out of the US, where the cellular telephone market has lost some of its glamour rating.

Last week, Racal Telecom gave a presentation, arranged by Hoare Govett, to fund managers, and has also attracted the support of BZW. After weeks of speculation, Williams Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, has confirmed plans to dispose of its Crown Berger Paints business. Sweden's Nobel Industries is paying £240 million in cash. Williams acquired Crown from Reed International in 1987 and bought Berger a year later. Williams responded with a rise of 9p to 250p.

The news revived hopes of a full bid for Yale & Valor, the heating appliances and security group. Its shares rose 11p to 285p. Williams holds a 6 per cent stake in Yale & Valor and there was speculation at one time that it would eventually make a full offer for the rest.

As expected, Fairline Boats sank 60p to 730p after the group's denial that it had received a bid approach. The breakdown in bid talks left

WLT (Holdings), the ITV contractor, reckons to have been ahead of the BBC in terms of market share every weekend since Christmas. It could see some windfall property profits if Channel 4 moves to WLT's Princes Wharf site south of the River Thames, one of four candidates for the fourth channel's headquarters. The preferred shares fell 2p to 754p.

were for unchanged profits. The shares gained 10p to 169p and succeeded in dragging the rest of the clearing banks out of the doldrums.

Rises were seen in Barclays Bank, 11p to 520p as the group embarked on its own share buy-back programme. This week, it has bought a total of 12,500 ordinary shares and 17,500 A shares, 8p better at 170p.

Pifco is capitalized at £15 million and has about £8 million in cash on deposit.

Klark-Teknik 9p cheaper at 60p, but news of an agreed £15 million bid from Pharo Holdings lifted Continental Micro-wave 85p to 230p.

Full-year figures from the Royal Bank of Scotland turned out to be better than expected, with the group producing a £2 million rise in pre-tax profits to £173 million. Most analysts' best forecasts

had put the group at 165 million, with a rise of 2p to 250p.

The shares gained 10p to 169p and succeeded in dragging the rest of the clearing banks out of the doldrums.

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Michael Clark

## Burger King switches to Coke

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

THE war between Coca-Cola and Pepsi, the soft drinks groups, heightened this week when the Burger King fast food chain made the switch.

The estimated \$2.3 billion contract for America's second largest hamburger chain, with 5,400 outlets, was taken from Pepsi after six years.

It will mean every other fast food customer in America will be drinking Coke with a meal.

Burger King, part of Grand Metropolitan, which is headed by Mr Alan Sheppard, sought fresh proposals from both companies nine months after it had confirmed Pepsi as its

with this new contract. The thing that the last few years has taught the food industry is that you cannot supply the drinks to restaurants and be their competition."

PepsiCo is America's largest fast food restaurant owner with Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell.

Within seven months Pepsi will lose another fast food contract to Coke when Wendy's, a hamburger chain, changes suppliers.

Coca-Cola said: "They will be one of our biggest customers, we will now have more than half the market

share." Coke supplies 100,000 American restaurants owned by the five main fast food chains, including McDonald's.

Sheppard: \$2.3bn deal

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Neil Shaw

Chairman &amp; Chief Executive



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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# Our future in the house of the rising sun?

Those who want to be green could soon go one step further – by living in a green house. Nick Nuttall reports on a solar design which cuts emissions of harmful gases and saves on fuel bills

**D**uring the next few weeks, tests of a unique home design will bring the reality of a green house closer for the average British family. The home uses solar energy in an active way that suits Britain's minimal exposure to sunlight.

If implemented widely, the system would play a large role in cutting the emission of gases which are the main offenders in global warming and the so-called greenhouse effect.

Industrial engineers with British Steel, British Alcan and Cape Metal Products are to begin final trials on heat "harvesters", in the form of specially designed roof tiles, for a house which uses solar energy to heat rooms and hot water with unprecedented efficiency.

The tests mark the fruition of an Isle of Wight architect's dream of harnessing solar energy. The architect, Alan Riddett, says: "This design allows you to use the nuclear power station in the sky, which dumps its waste 93 million miles away. When we burn coal or other fossil fuels, we are only releasing locked-up solar energy. With this building we can instead take it directly."

Mr Riddett's building has been called the "endothemic" house. Several large companies are now planning to construct the first 13 endothermic houses at Wootton, on the Isle of Wight, this year. The Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire will monitor the project.

The move comes after a favourable assessment of the system by Dr Bruce Denness, former professor of engineering at Newcastle University, and Professor Alex Hardy, former head of building sciences at Newcastle. Their investigation was backed by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The two scientists, now at the Bureau of Applied Sciences on the Isle of Wight, believe the endothermic building principle is ready for the mass market and "should present no significant manufacturing problems".

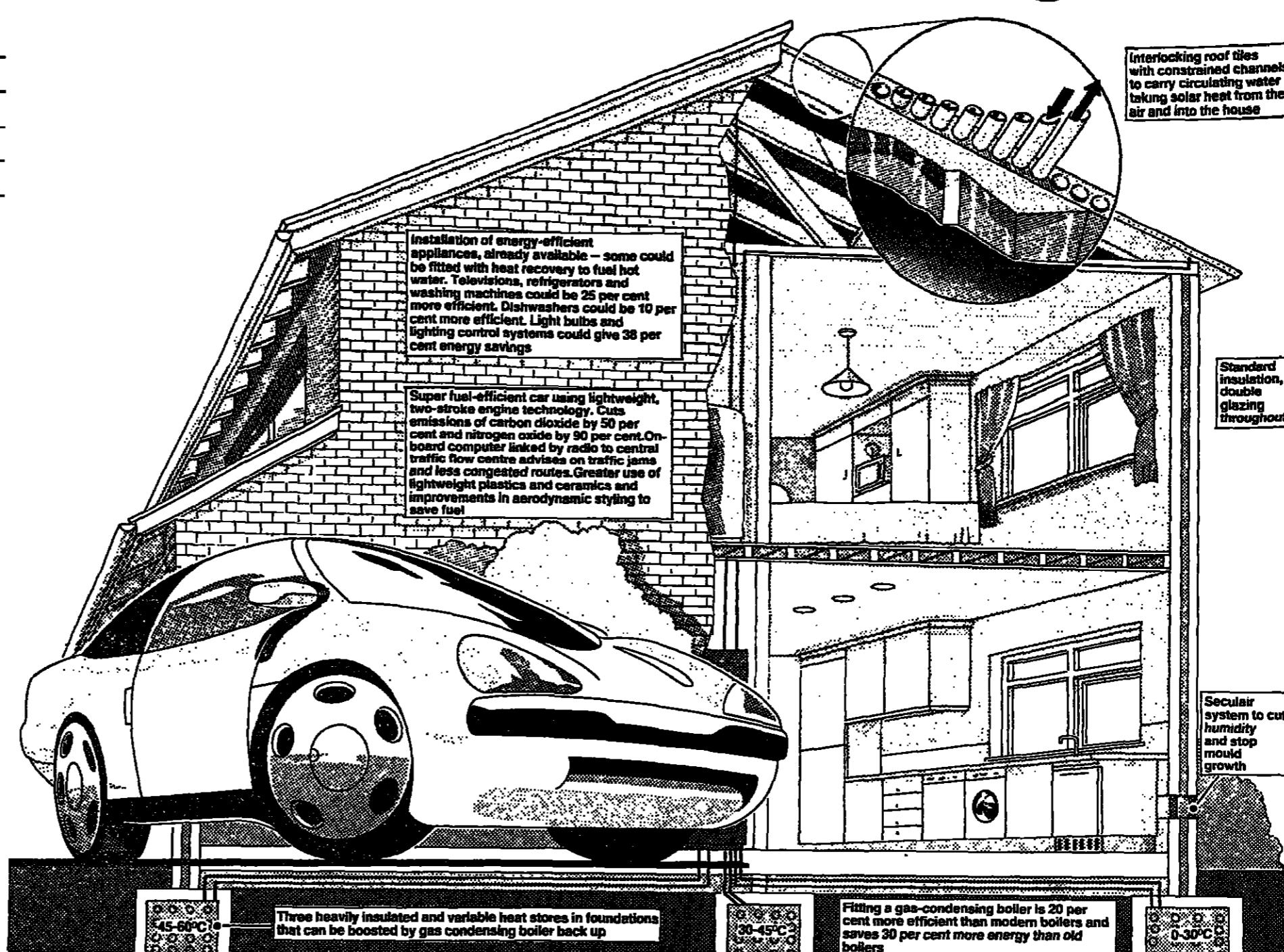
More than 80 per cent of a household's energy goes towards heating rooms and hot water, studies have shown.

The DTI-funded report concludes: "This totally benign system offers the promise of achieving major abatement of the greenhouse effect."

Last week, the Watt Committee on Energy, an independent body drawn from 60 professional institutions, met at the Royal Geographical Society, in London, to debate its working party's recommendations on technological solutions to the greenhouse effect.

The findings, to be presented to the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climatic Change later in the year, endorse measures such as the introduction of gas and advanced gas-fuelled power plants and the promotion of renewable energy sources such as wind and tide.

Among the proposals are



known as Secular, being installed by Laing Homes and several local authorities, including Gateshead, in Tyne and Wear.

Four vents that use mineral wool are installed in a home's air bricks, alleviating the need for electrical dehumidifiers and the constant emptying of collected water. The system can keep the relative humidity of a home below the critical 70 per cent level even on a cold night, it is claimed. If techniques exist to heavily insulate houses and keep them damp free, costs remain the only real barrier to widespread implementation.

**H**ouseholders must be encouraged to install new technology by incentives, the Watt Committee believes. "Homes are bought and sold, on average, every eight years. You could consider some kind of energy conservation tax break then," Dr Ken Gregory, a member of the working party, says.

Andrew Warren, director of the independent Association for the Conservation of Energy (ACE), says the public must be made aware of the savings to be had from available technology, particularly in energy-efficient heating systems.

The committee also identified road transport as a crucial area in the campaign against carbon dioxide emissions. Dr Gregory believes cars and trucks could account for a 10 per cent rise in carbon discharges in Britain by 2005.

The committee believes technical and supply problems will continue to hamper the development of environmentally friendly fuels, including alcohols, hydrogen and gas.

Electric cars, which required the burning of fossil fuels at power stations to charge batteries, were also

watchdog, these systems are 20 per cent more efficient than modern boilers and 30 per cent more efficient than older boilers. ACE claims such systems could cut carbon dioxide emissions from each home by up to 1.2 tonnes annually and, with 11.5 million homes in Britain using gas-fired central heating, the benefit to the environment is clear. Yet only one per cent of the estimated 830,000 new boilers installed in Britain each year is of the gas-condensed kind.

Mr Warren says Britain also needs an energy labelling scheme similar to those already operating in the United States and Australia. These give symbols on major electrical goods, such as washing machines and freezers, to indicate how energy efficient they are.

Other suggestions include heat recovery systems on refrigerators for hot water, reducing the temperatures of dishwashers through the use of chemical sterilization and the wider use of lighting control systems for homes and offices.

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Electric cars, which required the burning of fossil fuels at power stations to charge batteries, were also

considered something of a false hope. However, the committee believes cuts in emissions can be made with improvements in electronic engine-management systems, injection technology and a wider use of lightweight materials.

Fuel-efficient engines were identified as holding the greatest promise, including advanced two-strokes with the potential to cut petrol consumption by between 25 and 30 per cent.

One such engine, the Orbital, was developed by Australian Ralph Sarich in the Seventies. General Motors recently entered mass produc-

tion with a car that uses the system.

The Orbital engine is claimed to reduce by up to 90 per cent the discharge of nitrogen oxide, another offending greenhouse gas, because of the lower operating temperatures of two-strokes. Carbon dioxide emission can also be reduced by up to half.

The Orbital's weight-to-power rating is at the heart of the improvements. The unit is also claimed to be 25 per cent cheaper to make than a normal four-stroke engine. Several other American and Japanese car companies are also considering two-stroke

engines.

Whether Britain can achieve its avowed intention of stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the century remains to be seen.

Clearly, curbing emissions will not only require political will and technical effort, but careful planning. In 1973, the Government decided Britain had no need for the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service and closed its doors just weeks before the oil crisis.

Nevertheless, false economy still happens in the energy enlightened Nineties. Last week, it emerged that a school in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, had been told by the local council to turn up the boilers and open doors and windows. The council had calculated it could get a cheaper rate by burning more gas.

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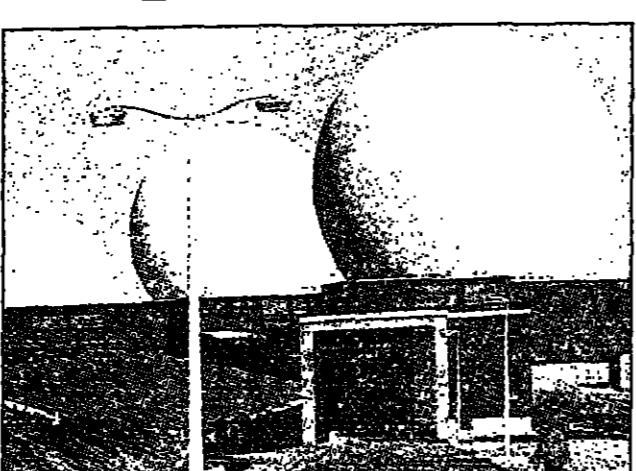
## Ancient shape of new technology

THE three huge "golfball" structures at Fylingdales, on the north Yorks moors, are to disappear. In their place will be a vast pyramid of steel and anodized aluminium.

In a rare invitation to the inner sanctum of the site, at the RAF base at Fylingdales, reporters were yesterday shown the start of construction of the new structure. The pyramid is part of a \$250 million (£156 million) programme to modernise technology designed 30 years ago.

The 84ft radar dishes, protected from the weather in fibreglass and plastic geodesic, or golfball-shaped, radomes, 140ft in diameter and 160ft high, will give way to phased-array radar.

Fylingdales is one of three long-range radar sites that form the United States ballistic missile early warning sys-



Symbol of an era: the "golfball" radar in Yorkshire

tem (BMEWS). The others are at Thule, in Greenland, and Clear, Alaska.

Modernization of the three sites is a contentious issue

between the United States and the Soviet Union because of the possible use of the sites beyond their original tasks if a "Star Wars" conflict ever took place.

With more than 8,500 man-made objects whirling around the Earth, the BMEWS stations have to decide if the sudden appearance of a new object constitutes the launch of a hostile missile.

Inside two of the Fylingdales radomes, radar dishes are swinging to the east and north, looking 3,000 miles into space. They can detect an object over Moscow the size of a biscuit tin. The third dish, a

tracker, homes in on objects seen in the scan.

Information is continuously fed into a computer system, the missile impact predictor, for identification. The computer compares the incoming data with its records of satellites and articles in orbit. Anything that cannot be identified triggers an alarm.

The BMEWS stations were designed to detect Soviet ICBMs in the trajectory considered most likely 25 years ago, from the north across the Arctic Circle. But sea-launched missiles can now come from any direction.

BMEWS equipment, which takes up to 15 seconds to track the path of a missile, became vulnerable as the volume of junk in space increased and multiple warhead (MRV) weapons were developed.

The effectiveness of phased-array radar was established 20 years ago, but microelectronics was needed for it to be put into practice.

The limitations of a moving radar aerial are removed by a fixed radar that produces a beam that can, at bewildering speed, scan a 360-degree sphere by electronic steering.

The pyramid faces are composed of small triangles – they form tiny radar aerials that send out pulses.

Pearce Wright

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY



LUCY CULLUM

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I should be quicker  
I'm not a robot  
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I can't handle this

VDU: tilt and position on the desk

Keyboard: flat or raised and the position on the desk

Feet: on the floor or supported by crossbar or footrest

# Keys to a problem

**E**fforts to understand and remedy the complaints suffered by increasing numbers of keyboard users are being hampered by generalization and myth, according to a group of British experts who have studied the problem.

The condition known as Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI), linked to the use of desktop computers and terminals, is a serious and sometimes disabling complaint that has led already to individual settlements of more than £40,000.

Brian Pearce, a director of the Human Sciences and Advanced Technology Research Institute, said this week that RSI was "a facile acronym describing a phenomenon rather than a condition". The institute is part of Loughborough University of Technology, in Leicestershire, and has done extensive research on the problem.

Addressing a conference entitled "Upper Limb Disorders among Keyboard Users", Mr Pearce argued that pressure groups were using the term RSI for a range of problems from specific clinical conditions such as tenosynovitis to cramp.

Mr Pearce also argued that RSI was caused by a complicated range of factors of which the computer hardware was only one. He said a psychological component could be another main factor.

**Many keyboard users suffer pain. Is RSI a condition or a myth?**

**Chris Lewis and Matthew May report**

"When someone suggests that they are suffering from RSI, they might well be experiencing excruciating pain and discomfort; indeed, there is very little evidence that the sufferers are faking or imagining their symptoms."

"But there is increasingly strong evidence that the causes of their pain and discomfort are not solely the physical aspects of their workplace to which they attribute their disability," he said.

RSI is manifest as varying degrees of discomfort felt in the hands, wrists, shoulders and back. The initial stage is characterized by numbness, pins and needles and sharp pains in the affected joints. If left untreated, the problem can result in long-term paralysis. Until recently, it was difficult to claim industrial injury compensation because many doctors were either unable to recognize the problem or were unwilling to take it seriously.

Some of the blame can be attributed to the computer keyboard itself. The "QWERTY" keyboard layout common to most computers today was the result of mechanical limitations in the design of the typewriter, but it forces the fingers to move inefficiently.

Possibly the most significant claims for compensation have yet to come. In the newspaper industry, for instance, the largest reported incidence has been at the *Financial Times*, where 130 people reported symptoms of RSI in a management survey. Several journalists have been on paid sick leave for more than 18 months — the management says there are nine, the NUJ says there are 20.

Marcus Bezzi is an Australian lawyer specializing in RSI claims at the law firm Stephens Innocent. Mr Bezzi has seen 50 potential plaintiffs this year alone. His firm is acting on behalf of several journalists with NUJ support, and is preparing to issue writs for RSI compensation against several newspapers and a news agency.

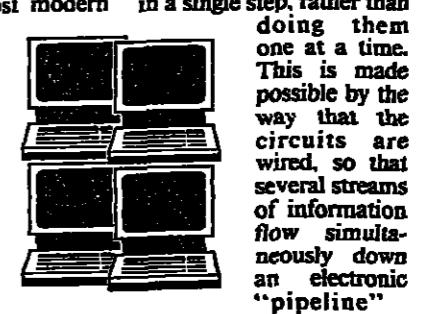
Whatever the cause of RSI, the cost of adequate health and safety provision must be built into future computer investment decisions. If the recent trends, both in and out of the courts, continue, the cost of technology may have to be counted, not only in software and hardware, but in compensation too.

## SCIENCE REPORT

# Grape proves a fruitful step

**I**n computer science there is a tendency to think that bigger problems demand bigger and more expensive computers for their solution. But in today's issue of *Nature* (vol. 345 pp. 33-35), Toshiaki Ebisuzaki and colleagues from the University of Tokyo describe a purpose-built computer, called the Grape, that can perform a particularly vexing task as quickly as the world's largest machines but at a fraction of the cost.

At the heart of the group's work lies a perpetual dilemma for computer engineers: the trade-off between versatility and speed. In other words, is it better to build a computer that can do many things well, or one that excels at a single task? Most modern



(Grape) is short for GRAvity PipeP. This is a hardware rather than a software solution: doing the same thing on a regular computer would be impossible without rewriting. There are several other areas of research in which the N-body problem is important.

Simulating a lot of stars is not very different from simulating, for instance, a group of atoms moving about in a liquid.

The group points out that their Grapes, although purpose-built, can be fairly versatile if joined together in bunches or connected with other machines. In view of which one might be forgiven for describing their approach as fruitful.

**Philip Ball**

© Nature Times News Service 1990

# A life beyond the ice age

**The Scots pine challenges the view that Britain's trees were totally destroyed**

**MEASURES** are under way to protect a species of tree which endured the ice age 10,000 years ago, only to be threatened by 20th century exploitation of the environment. The species is a survivor which challenges the accepted view that, at the height of the ice age, the arboreal population of Britain was destroyed.

The contradiction to established ideas comes from a new method of biochemical analysis, pioneered by scientists at the Northern Research Station of the Forestry Commission, near Edinburgh.

They have employed the method to unravel the most intimate genealogy of the Scots pine, with some startling results. The Scots pine, along with the yew and the common juniper, form Britain's only native conifers.

The originally extensive cover of the Scots pine has been drastically reduced by

various forms of exploitation of land for agriculture and development and by neglect through preference for imported species in commercial forestry.

There are only 40 or so remnants in Scotland, with others planted elsewhere. Ian Forrest, one of the commission's biochemists, says Scotland's native pinewoods are "perhaps the most characteristic and ecologically important type of semi-natural vegetation still in existence in the country".

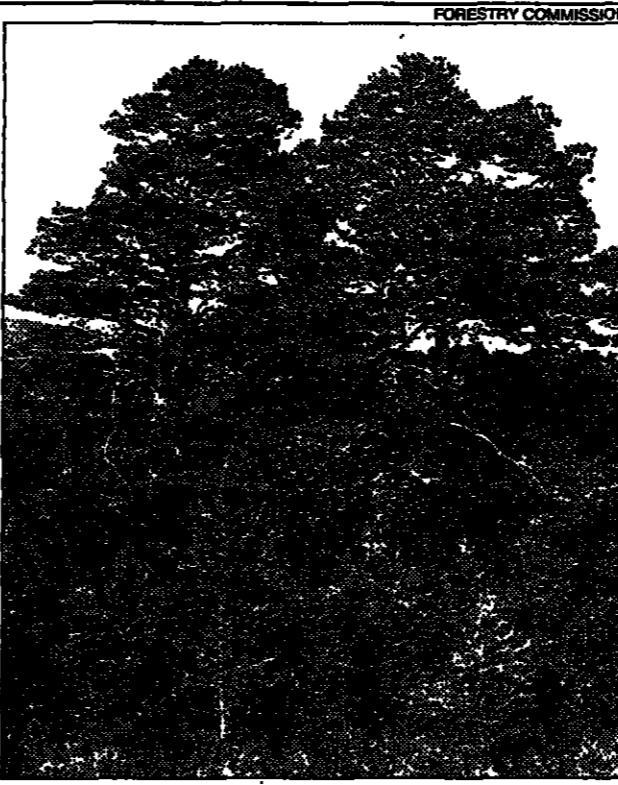
Measures to protect and restore the remnants have followed a reawakening interest on the part of foresters, conservationists and landowners in preserving these special tree communities. To

avoid further mixing of separate gene pools, and to highlight those woodlands which may contain trees of especially interesting unusual or useful genetic make-up, the scientists devised a scheme that is analogous to the DNA-fingerprinting technique used in forensic science.

Comparison of the external features of the trees was inadequate. The scientists have been able to compare, instead, the composition of a family of biochemicals found in the resin of trees known as terpenes.

In an outline of the method in *Forest Life*, the commission's occasional publication of advances in forestry, Mr Forrest explained how the trees could be classified into

Pearce Wright



A survivor: the Scots pine lived through the ice age

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Heart patient hope in drug find

**Thomson Prentice** on a new therapy which promises safer heart surgery and relief for troubled blood banks

In an operating theatre in a London hospital a few days ago, a middle-aged woman underwent a complex heart operation which should have required transfusions of 10 or more pints of blood.

In fact, she needed only one, due to a remarkable new form of therapy which holds the promise of improved safety for many thousands of patients like her, and which could help reduce the chronic shortages in many of the world's blood banks.

Ken Taylor, of Hammersmith Hospital, in west London, who performed the heart valve replacement operation, will attend an international conference of heart surgeons on Saturday to deliver the results of more than 600 such operations using aprotinin, a drug that is helping make transfusions redundant.

Two years ago, Professor Taylor, the British Heart Foundation's professor of cardiac surgery at Hammersmith, and David Royston, a consultant anaesthetist now at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, discovered, by chance, the astonishing ability of the drug to prevent excessive post-operative bleeding by high-risk heart patients.

Aprotinin had been used routinely for at least 30 years to treat acute inflammation of the pancreas. Professor Taylor and Dr Royston were trying to find whether it could also reduce lung inflammation in patients who were on a heart-lung bypass machine during cardiac operations.

"We suddenly realized that the patients coming off the machine towards the end of the operation did not bleed as much as might have been expected," Dr Royston says. "We did not understand why, until we found it was only true of patients who had been given aprotinin."

After a coronary bypass, particularly if it is a repeat operation, patients can lose six or more pints of blood. But aprotinin has meant that transfusions are now seldom necessary in such cases.

Clinical trials of the drug in Britain, West Germany and the Netherlands show that less than a



Matter of heart: Professor Ken Taylor will deliver his findings on aprotinin, based on more than 600 operations, to an international conference

quarter of patients have needed to be given blood, and in much smaller quantities than those undergoing the same operations without aprotinin.

The results showed no significant side-effects and have been so impressive that the drug is now used in about 65 per cent of all open-heart surgery in West Germany.

American surgeons are testing it in similar operations, while in Britain its use has been extended on a trial basis to a small number of heart transplants, and to cardiac surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children, in Great Ormond Street, London.

Professor Taylor will present the latest evidence during the American Association for Thoracic Surgery conference, which begins in Toronto on Sunday. He will show delegates a film of two identical bypass operations he carried out

recently at Hammersmith Hospital. One patient, who was not given aprotinin, lost almost three times as much blood as another who was given it, and needed two pints of blood after an operation which, due to bleeding problems, took 28 minutes longer. The patient given aprotinin needed no transfusion.

"Our experience in Britain and from other European hospitals confirms quite clearly the efficacy of the drug," Professor Taylor says. "It allows the majority of these high-risk patients to undertake surgery without even a single unit of transfused blood."

"I have no doubt that it has meant survival, and a good surgical result, for some patients who might not otherwise have survived the operation."

Impressive though the results have been, there is a big gap in the aprotinin story: nobody, including

Professor Taylor and Dr Royston, can explain exactly how it works.

They believe that when a patient's blood passes through a heart-lung machine during cardiac surgery, changes occur in the blood platelets which impair natural clotting processes and thus make excessive bleeding more likely. Aprotinin, which is infused into the patient throughout the operation, is supplied simultaneously to the machine, and appears to protect the platelets.

"It's still a bit of a mystery,"

Professor Taylor says. "A lot of research is going into understanding the precise mechanism of action. But we feel we know enough to be sure that we are not taking a leap into the dark."

The Department of Health has not licensed the drug for general use in cardiac surgery, and until it has weighed up all the evidence,

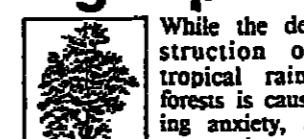
aprotinin is available only on a restricted, "named-patient" basis. The same is true in the United States, where the Food and Drug Administration is also studying the results of clinical trials.

However, it seems likely that, sooner rather than later, the drug will be much more widely used. If so, Professor Taylor acknowledges, it could play an important role in reducing the need for transfusions in other types of surgery, and thereby further help preserve precious stocks of donor blood.

"These are particularly difficult days for the transfusion services because demand constantly exceeds supply. In addition there is the need for rigorous screening of blood donations against the viruses which cause AIDS and hepatitis," he says.

"The use of aprotinin in cardiac operations does offer a major contribution to blood conservation."

## Tree study urges plan



While the destruction of tropical rain forests is causing anxiety, a new study concludes that drastic changes are also needed in forestry practice in Europe to protect the climate. An investigation by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, based in Vienna, recommends a major overhaul in silviculture for economic as well as ecological reasons. Professor Sten Nilsson, principal investigator of the institute's forest study, says that the level of destruction shows that more controls are needed over the emission of pollutants which are killing trees across Europe. Recommendations from the investigation, to be published soon in a three-volume set, include conversion of agricultural land and pasture to silviculture and rehabilitation of damaged forests. If implemented, land area devoted to forests would increase by 5 per cent over the next 30 years.

## Home work?

IBM is preparing a home computer for launch this summer according to the American magazine, PC Week. The company first tried to sell such a machine in 1984 with little success and since then has concentrated exclusively on its business customers. The company refused to comment on the magazine report which predicted the launch of an £800 machine with hard disc, modem and software. Both the price and software mentioned indicate the computer would be aimed more at those requiring a "home" computer for work rather than the new breed of entertainment machines reviving the computer games market.

## Turtle link clue

A study of human-sized turtles suggests that dinosaurs were able to regulate their body temperatures in much the same way as large mammals. Two researchers from Drexel University in Philadelphia reported in the journal *Nature* that the physiology of the reptilian leatherback turtles may explain how dinosaurs were able to survive in warm and icy conditions more than 65 million years ago. Reptilian leatherbacks are able to withstand freezing water because of their slow size and by regulating their blood flow to conserve energy, the scientists said. "Because of their large body size, dinosaurs were able to use their bulk as insulation and as a counter-current heat exchanger," James Spola, a physiologist, claimed.

Matthew May

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

Continued on next page

## Director



The British Industrial Biological Research Association is seeking a suitable candidate for appointment as Director and Chief Executive upon the retirement of Dr S. D. Ganguli early in 1991.

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## Repeated suspensions by GMC criticized

**Taylor v General Medical Council**  
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Oliver of Aylmerton [Reasons April 30]  
The professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council, on suspending a practitioner's registration for a period of up to 12 months, could only reserve the possibility of extending that period if they considered that there was a positive reason for them to monitor his progress during the period of suspension in order to decide whether he could be permitted to resume practice when it expired.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so stated in giving reasons for allowing on March 22 an appeal by Dr Kobina Artsa Taylor against the direction of the professional conduct committee on November 20, 1989, that suspension of his registration in the register of medical practitioners should be extended for a further 12 months from December 26, 1989.

Dr Taylor in person; Mr Peter Clarke for the GMC.

**LORD BRIDGE** said that the appeal raised important questions with respect to the exercise by the professional conduct committee of their power under section 36 of the Medical Act 1983 to direct successive periods of suspension of practitioners' registration.

In November 1987 the appellant appeared before the professional conduct committee charged with serious professional misconduct. The committee judged him to have been guilty of serious professional misconduct and took a serious view of his case.

If they had then directed that his name be erased from the register, an appeal would have had no prospect of success. Instead they directed that his registration be suspended for 12 months from December 26, 1987, but intimated that they would resume consideration of

the case before the expiry of that period.

Consequently he appealed again before the committee on November 14, 1988, when they directed that his suspension be extended for a further period of 12 months and again intimated that they would resume consideration of the case before the expiry of that period.

Finally, on November 20, 1989, the committee gave the direction for a third successive period of 12 months suspension which was the subject of the appeal.

The provisions relating to professional conduct and fitness to practise, now found in Part V of the Medical Act 1983, could be traced through the Medical Acts 1956 to 1978 which the 1983 Act consolidated.

The exclusive purpose of the power to suspend exercised by the health committee was the protection of the public and that was also the primary purpose of the powers both of erasure and suspension conferred on the professional conduct committee.

But, following a finding of a criminal conviction or of serious professional misconduct, a direction by the professional conduct committee of either erasure or suspension inevitably imported some punitive element.

Of the two alternatives erasure would naturally be seen, and had always been seen on appeal to the Board, as the graver punishment warranted by the graver crime or professional misconduct, notwithstanding that the professional conduct committee had power under section 41 to direct restoration to the register of a person whose name had been erased at any time after the expiry of 10 months from the date of erasure.

A practitioner who was suspended for up to 12 months in the first place was entitled to conclude that his criminal behaviour or professional misconduct was not regarded by the committee as sufficiently grave

to warrant erasure, and that the period of suspension directed was thought sufficient to provide any necessary punitive element in the sentence imposed.

It could never be a proper ground for the exercise of the power to extend the period of suspension than that the period originally directed was insufficient to reflect the gravity of the original offence or offences.

It would be a proper ground for extending the period of suspension than that during the period the practitioner had been convicted of some further criminal offence and it might well be a proper ground that he had been guilty of some further misconduct, using that word in a more general sense, which reflected on his fitness to practise medicine.

But much the commonest case where the power would be appropriately exercised, and that for which, their Lordships thought, the power to extend a period of suspension and the power to direct erasure following a period of suspension were specifically designed, was where the criminal behaviour or professional misconduct which led to the original suspension was associated with and occasioned by some condition affecting the practitioner's fitness to practise which might or might not be amenable to cure.

The most obvious examples were where the practitioner was addicted to alcohol or drugs or suffered from some psychiatric disorder.

Such cases since 1978 might be referred by the preliminary proceedings committee either to the professional conduct committee or to the health committee.

The exercise in such cases by either committee of the power to extend the period of suspension had to be governed by the same principles.

The case would be reviewed before the expiry of the first or any subsequent period of suspension for the committee's decision in 1989 to direct a third period of suspension was that they regarded the original de-

cision to direct suspension instead of erasure as having been too lenient.

They did not intimate that they would reconsider the case before the expiry of the further period of suspension.

If they had concluded that for the protection of the public, there was some reason why the appellant could not yet be regarded as fit to resume practice, it would have been wholly inconsistent to direct a third and final period of 12 months suspension without reserving the case yet again for reconsideration before the expiry of that period.

In the light of those considerations the direction was wrong in principle.

Once the professional conduct committee decided, following proof of a criminal conviction or of professional misconduct, that a period of suspension up to 12 months was sufficient to mark the gravity of the case, it could never be appropriate to reserve the possibility of an extension of the period under rule 31(5) of the General Medical Council Preliminary Proceedings Committee and Professional Conduct Committee (Procedure) Rules Order of Council (SI 1988 No 2255) unless the committee concluded that there was a positive reason why they should monitor the practitioner's progress in some particular respect during the period of suspension with a view to deciding, in the light of that progress, whether he could safely be permitted to resume practice when the period expired.

It would always be desirable for the committee to indicate in general terms what arrangements were for reserving the case for reconsideration and to tell the practitioner what were the specific matters on which they would require to be satisfied before he would be permitted to resume practice.

Solicitors: Field Fisher Waterhouse.

## Compatibility of Sunday trading law for the trial court

**Stoke-on-Trent City Council v Stoke-on-Trent City Council & Q**  
Before Mr Justice Hoffmann [Judgment April 10]

In proceeding by a local authority under section 47 of the Shops Act 1950 to restrain Sunday trading, the question whether the enforcement of section 47 would be incompatible with article 30 of the Treaty of Rome was one for the court at the trial and was not a proper one for the court's decision at an intermediate stage of the proceedings.

Mr Justice Hoffmann so held in the Chancery Division in refusing an application by B & Q plc to strike out as an abuse of process brought against them by Stoke-on-Trent City Council seeking final injunctions to restrain Sunday trading by B & Q in breach of the 1950 Act.

B & Q had claimed that no local authority was entitled to bring civil proceedings against them to enforce section 47 until some criminal court in proceedings against them had decided that the section did not infringe article 30 of the Treaty of Rome.

Article 30 provides: "Quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect shall . . . be prohibited between member states."

Mr Stuart Isaacs and Mr Neil Calver for the applicants; Mr John Samuels, QC, Mr David Vaughan, QC, Mr Gerald Barling and Mr Nicholas Davidson for B & Q.

**MR JUSTICE HOFFMANN** said that in *Stoke-on-Trent City Council v B & Q (Retail) Ltd* ([1984] AC 754), the House of

Commons gave some guidance on the principles which would justify the grant of an injunction to restrain Sunday trading and which would be in aid of the criminal law.

In *City of London Corporation v Bovis Construction Ltd* ([1988] 86 LGR 660, 682) those principles were summed up as:

"1. The jurisdiction was to be invoked and exercised exceptionally and with great caution.  
2. There had to be something more than mere infringement of the criminal law before the assistance of civil proceedings could be invoked and accorded for the protection or promotion of the interests of the inhabitants of the area.

3. The essential foundation for the exercise of the court's discretion to grant an injunction was not that the offender was deliberately and flagrantly flouting the law but the need to draw the inference that the defendant's unlawful operations would continue unless and until effectively restrained by the law and that nothing short of an injunction would be sufficient to restrain them.

Pursuant to those principles, a large number of injunctions to restrain Sunday trading had been granted.

But in a prosecution before the Criminal Magistrates Court B & Q had put forward a new defence, alleging that section 47 was incompatible with article 30, their evidence being that 10 per cent of their purchases came from other member states of the Community and that having to close on Sundays meant that they sold less than they would otherwise.

The justices had made a

finding that section 47 did not infringe article 30. To that extent, such a ruling might be cited as authority in subsequent criminal or civil proceedings.

Stoke-on-Trent City Council waited until the European Court had given its ruling in the 1984 litigation applied and had opened in June 1989 new premises from which it appeared it was trading on Sundays.

The European Court's ruling (*The Times* November 24, 1989) was that prohibitions on opening hours were a measure having an equivalent effect to a quantitative restriction on imports within article 30.

The European Court's ruling (*The Times* November 24, 1989) was that prohibitions on opening hours were a measure having an equivalent effect to a quantitative restriction on imports within article 30.

The European Court had said that it would have no difficulty in satisfying a court that the effect on Community trade of a Sunday trading prohibition did not exceed the effect intrinsic to such a prohibition, not in the court's view, make the institution of civil proceedings an abuse of the law.

On January 23, 1990, Norwich City Council issued proceedings in respect of B & Q shop in Norwich.

B & Q were now applying to have those proceedings struck out as an abuse of the process of the court and claimed that no injunction should be granted unless the court was satisfied of the criminality of the conduct.

The present local authorities were not concerned with criminal proceedings and had not instituted any. They were seeking the substantive remedy of injunction to restrain future conduct and it had been clearly established by the House of Lords in *B & Q* that in an appropriate case they could obtain such a remedy without having to institute criminal proceedings.

Whether the present was an appropriate case would have to be decided at the trial.

Of course, a decision in favour of the local authority at the trial would necessarily entail

a finding that section 47 did not infringe article 30. To that extent, such a ruling might be cited as authority in subsequent criminal or civil proceedings.

However, it was by no means unusual for decisions on opening hours to be used as authority to establish the legal ingredients of a criminal offence, such a finding did not, in the court's view, make the institution of civil proceedings an abuse of the law.

Plainly, what B & Q wanted was to delay injunction proceedings until a case had been heard by a magistrate's court and the subsequent case stayed to be heard by the Divisional Court, if not higher.

That was perfectly understandable, since criminal proceedings would not affect its trade. But if Stoke-on-Trent Council thought it in the interests of their citizens to enforce the law by injunction, it had an arguable case, as they plainly had, for being able to satisfy the necessary conditions at the trial, his Lordship did not understand the basis for stopping them.

The action had already been stayed for trial in July, and it was therefore likely to produce the earliest authoritative ruling.

For that reason, it did not seem that the present was a proper case for the exercise of his Lordship's discretion to stay the action and B & Q's application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr Stewart Titchener, Stoke-on-Trent and Mr R. M. Auton, Norwich; Thompson Quarrell for Hepworth, Winstanley & Pugh, Southampton.

## Pension scheme nomination of beneficiary not a testamentary disposition

**Baird v Baird**  
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Sir Roger Omrod [Judgment April 30]

The nomination by a member of a pension scheme of a beneficiary to receive the death benefit payable under the scheme on the member's death before retirement was not a testamentary disposition by the member, and so the nomination was valid despite non-compliance with the formalities of the Wills and Probate Ordinance.

The argument was unsound.

A will was an instrument by

which a person made a disposition of his property to take effect after his death and which was in its own nature and ambulatory and revocable during his life.

It was therefore, the argument proceeded, a testamentary disposition and as such could be valid only if it complied with the formalities of the Wills and Probate Ordinance.

The argument was unsound.

A will was an instrument by

which a person made a disposition of his property to take effect after his death and which was in its own nature and ambulatory and revocable during his life.

The only English authority in point, *In re Danish Bacon Co Ltd Staff Pension Fund Trusts* ([1971] 1 WLR 248), concerned a pension scheme.

One of the rules of the fund provided that the members might, and had to if required by the trustees, appoint a beneficiary to receive the death benefit for appointment after his death in service. One of the issues was whether a nomination signed in the presence of a single witness was effective or whether it was a testamentary disposition which required to be attested in the same way as a will. Mr Justice Megarry held that the nomination was valid.

The decision had been critical, but on grounds which attached insufficient importance to the limited nature of the member's rights under the terms of a scheme of this type and which largely ignored the contractual obligations arising from the scheme on both sides.

Contracts and trusts were not mutually exclusive concepts and it did not follow that, because a member had a right (whether in terms contractual or fiduciary) to have a payment made to his estate after his death in certain events in default or on failure of prior interests limited by the terms of the contract, the designation of those prior interests in accordance with the terms of the contract necessarily constituted a testamentary disposition of trust property which was freely disposable by him during his lifetime.

Mr White relied upon the

scheme each employee constituted himself both a beneficiary and (*quodlibet*) his contributions to the trust fund from which the benefits were paid.

He retained no proprietary interests in his contributions but received instead such rights, including the right to appoint interests in the fund to take effect on the occurrence of specified contingencies, as the trustee of the fund conferred upon him.

The rules of the plan provided, *inter alia*, for the payment on the death of a member in service of certain sums of a capital nature to such person or persons as the member should have nominated and, in default, to his widow, or, failing her, to his estate.

A member had a right to nominate a beneficiary, and nominations and revocations or alterations thereto were subject to the consent of the management committee.

Mr Baird nominated his brother, the respondent, as his beneficiary, and that nomination was approved by the company.

The Wills and Probate Ordinance of Trinidad and Tobago followed the provisions of the English Wills Act 1837 in requiring a will to be executed in the presence of two witnesses.

Mr Baird subsequently married the appellant, and he died in 1972 while still in the company's employment without having revoked or varied his nomination.

The scheme was a pension scheme of the conventional type now familiar in most industries. The funds from time to time contributed to the plan vested in the trustees upon the death of the member.

The rights of a member, over and above his personal entitlement to pension and retirement benefit, were very limited. He might terminate his liability to contribute to the plan by leaving the company's employment and would thus defeat any rights or his widow or estate might have in the death benefits payable under the plan.

His personal entitlement to any part of the funds vested in the trustees was limited and none of the benefits payable under the scheme was capable of assignment.

The argument advanced on behalf of the appellant was that the nomination of a beneficiary to receive the death-in-employment benefit was a disposition of the member's property; that it was a disposition which was limited only in two events, the first being the revocation of the nomination.

That did not lie within the member's sole control and could be effected only with the committee's approval, so that the document lacked an essential

particular.

But in what was now the normal case of non-assignable interests such as that in the present case and, *a fortiori*, where the power of nomination and revocation required the prior approval of the trustees or of a management committee, there was no reason to doubt the correctness of the decision in the *Danish Bacon Co case*.

Solicitors: Simons Muirhead & Burton.

## Human Rights Law Report

## Strasbourg

## Safeguards protecting abuse of telephone tapping are insufficiently precise

**Kruslin v France**  
(Cases Nos 7/1989/167/223 and 4/1989/164/220)  
Before R. E. Ryddel, President and Judges: Bindenholz, Robert F., Golombok, F., Materher, L.-E., Petit, B., Walsh and Sir Vincent Evans  
Rosenfarb, M.-A., Eisner [Judgment April 24]

In two unanimous judgments, the European Court of Human Rights held that article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights had been violated, as the interception of telephone conversations had infringed the applicants' right to respect for their private life and their correspondence.

Article 8 of the Convention provides:

"Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, for his home and his correspondence."

"There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

In April 1985 the indictment division of the Toulouse Court of Appeal pronounced Mr Kruslin for trial at the Haute-Garonne Assize Court on charges of kidnapping and abetting a murder, aggravated theft and attempted aggravated theft.

One item of evidence was the recording of a telephone conversation that the applicant had had on a line belonging to a third party, a recording that had been made at the request of an investigating judge at Saint-Gaudens in connection with other proceedings.

An appeal on points of law brought by Mr Kruslin on that ground was dismissed by



Alix Ramsay reports on the special people competing in the Special Olympics

# Support rolls in on the Clyde

OLYMPIC fever is spreading in Strathclyde. In July, Glasgow will be host to more than 3,000 mentally handicapped competitors from east and west Europe plus their carers and their families for the European Special Olympic Games. And they will be welcomed by the Duke of Edinburgh, who will open the games in Celtic Park.

The Scots have really pushed the boat out, with Strathclyde Council pouring £1.5 million into the event, plus venues and support services free of charge to make it the most spectacular event of its kind held in Europe. The intention is to put the Special Olympics — and the organization that goes behind it — on the map.

But Special Olympics UK (SOUK) does more than staging national and international sports events. "The actual Games are just the showpiece," Peter Tanner, the chief executive of SOUK, said. "The motivation behind the organization is to take athletes with a mental handicap and get them into a training programme. In Britain we have 19,000 members in nearly 100 groups. These groups give the athletes year-round training in athletics, swimming and most sports disciplines based on the Olympics."

The Special Olympics, founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in America in 1968, came to Britain 11 years ago and there have been national Games held in Merseyside, in Brighton and Leicester. They have left a benefit to the community of sporting facilities for the mentally handicapped and programmes to integrate the handicapped into society.

"I look at them as people or athletes first who also have a mental handicap," Tanner said. "Often, too, their handicap does not impair their athletic ability. I think everyone must have an inherent competitive nature. I know that some of these athletes know they are not going to win, but they want to try and they want to finish and they're so proud of what they have achieved themselves."

The spirit of the Games and of the athletes is infectious. At last year's Leicester Games, a group of volunteers volunteered to work as stewards at the venues and also worked one-to-one with the athletes back at the prison. The same group has applied to go to Glasgow this year and have been granted permission to attend, much to the amazement of Tanner, who admits to being a cynical ex-con.

All competitors get a medal to mark their achievement in actually competing. Sometimes, to the casual observer, the level of sporting prowess may not look too impressive, but everything in this life is relative. One young gymnast

at the last Games trotted up to a springboard, bounced on it and trotted off — that was his set piece. It didn't look much and it wasn't too elegant but for a lad whose sole method of getting from A to B was to crawl along the floor, it represented an mighty achievement.

Barrington Smith is heading for Glasgow with his eyes set on a gold medal for basketball. At 26, a learning disability has left him unable to read or write and he has problems with basic maths and English. But what he does have is a sure eye for the basket on the court and, since joining the Strathclyde Social Education College in Wembley two years ago, he has a place in one of the best teams in the country.

"Coming to Strathclyde means a lot to Barry," his brother, Vernal, said. "The college gives people opportunities to express themselves. And it gives him the chance to advance his athletics and the chance to travel to the Games and experience different places."

Now, with a marked increase in confidence, Barry Smith is on a job training programme at Vale Farm Sports Centre with the chance of a permanent job. "Since he's been coming to Strathclyde he's become more independent," Vernal said. "We realized he had potential when he started. He knows that he is a good sportsman and so he tries his best and that encourages him to do more."

With almost 30 medals and trophies to his name, already Smith is determined to add to his tally in Glasgow. "We will win," he said. "We will win gold. I'm looking forward to the Olympics. I've been to Games in Ireland, Scotland and America and I like to travel, going places and seeing things. Basketball is special because I like to play in a team, and the skill tests are the best. I always want to try and beat my own record."

The Scots won the right to host the event thanks to a proven track record in helping the mentally handicapped and an impressive presentation to the Special Olympics International governing body in Washington.

"The Americans went on record to say it was the best presentation they had seen," Councillor Bernard Scott said. He is in charge of social services at Strathclyde Council and is raking in the cash to fund the Games.

Yesterday, Bill Hughes, the chairman of European Summer Special Olympic Games announced £2.5 million in sponsorship, ranging from contributions of £10,000 to the £1.5 million from Strathclyde.

Scott said: "We have athletes coming from all over Europe, including Latvia, Estonia and Russia." It is no laughing matter arranging



Courting fame: Barrington Smith and coach, Mark Woolford, prepare to dig for gold

travel plans for such a diverse group of people, but bureaucracy is no problem to Scott:

"We intend to deliver and in delivering we will cut through the red tape."

The set-up is dominated by local authority people and through the town-twinning links in Europe we can get things done quickly. For instance, I can call the mayor of any town direct and get him to sort things out at his end. We secured representation from the Eastern bloc two years ago before the political barriers started to come down."

At home Scott and his team have cleared the political barriers by uniting local authorities around Britain in support of the Games. A sponsored torch run from Athens to Glasgow by the Strathclyde

police is raising money and publicity. "Everyone wants the run to go through their town," Scott said.

"Just the other day Banff and Buchan — a tiny authority of about 15,000 people — sent me a letter pledging £5,000 and financial assistance to any athlete from their area competing in the Games. It means we have had to change the route for the torch yet again and go all the way up to the Moray Firth and back down to get to Glasgow. The police are getting fed up with me."

Schools in Scotland are also getting involved through the Adopt an Athlete scheme. "We have nearly 2,000 primary and 200 secondary schools taking part. We hope to get them all involved because the Special Olympics has an educational and a humane aspect."

Scott, an optimist, feels that his team has every possible contingency covered to make the Games a success. "I don't think there are any real problems except living itself. The only thing we can't control on the day is the weather. Any man-made problems we can overcome, any others we will have a bash at."

"The real message of the Games is that people must care for each other. We should be caring more and giving people opportunities — that is what is wrong with society today. And we have to tell people don't hide someone away in a back room just because they have got a mental handicap."

Schools in Scotland are also getting involved through the Adopt an Athlete scheme. "We have nearly 2,000 primary and 200 secondary schools taking part. We hope to get them all involved because the Special Olympics has an educational and a humane aspect."

## GOLF

### Lyle's absence is keenly felt

By Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent

SANDY Lyle was conspicuous by his absence as Nick Faldo, Severiano Ballesteros *et al* prepared for the Benson and Hedges International which starts at St Mellion, near Plymouth, tomorrow.

Lyle is soldiering on at the Byron Nelson Classic in Irving, Texas, he is launching another rescue act on his ailing career. Meanwhile, Faldo, the Masters champion, and Ballesteros are collecting £75,000 apiece simply for teeing-up and Bernhard Langer, Ronan Rafferty and Ian Woosnam will share a similar sum in appearance money.

Lyle, who won the Open Championship in 1985 and the Masters in 1988, can still command a price although he is no longer at the top of the shopping list for most sponsors. The suspicion is that his name will be erased altogether if he fails to regain winning form this year.

John Simpson, of the International Management Group, said: "Sandy Lyle will have a value. He is still a draw card. Of course, you cannot go to sponsors and expect the same sum as a year ago. It is a supply-and-demand situation."

**Ryder Cup site secure under new ownership**

By Mitchell Platts

AMERICAN golf officials are monitoring what has been called the "sale of the century" after the 1990 Ryder Cup at the Landmark Land Company to sell most of its golf properties, including Kiawah Island, the site of the 1991 Ryder Cup.

Landmark, forced to relinquish its real estate holdings to comply with new federal savings and loan regulations, has announced a \$967 million (£597 million) deal involving 18 of its 23 golf courses and property totalling 24,827 acres on 11 developments in the US. Tom G. Hora, a California developer, is the purchaser.

The critical factor concerns Kiawah Island, near Charleston, South Carolina, since it was to this venue that Landmark switched the Ryder Cup, which initially was to be played on its PGA West course in Palm Springs, California.

Pat Riely, the president of the

World (US) that the association would continue to monitor the situation.

Landmark, comprising the recent developments and golf it will not affect the PGA of America or the Ryder Cup.

Both Landmark and Hora have insisted that the sale will not jeopardize the Ryder Cup. Pete Dye, one of America's leading designers of golf courses, has remained on site at Kiawah Island to supervise the construction of the new course that is being built for the Ryder Cup. It is expected to be ready in September.

Hora has stated that he plans to retain all 18 courses and to complete the 13 courses in various stages of construction at those developments. Landmark is the premier championship golf course company in the world.

He will officially install himself when he drives off the first ball during the R and A autumn medal meeting in St Andrews.

Nicklaus joins the honorary at the R and A

JACK Nicklaus, who won the 1970 and 1978 Open Championships at St Andrews, has become an honorary member of the game's governing body, the Royal and Ancient, based in the Fife town.

The American, aged 50, who has won three Open Championships, joined the R and A by the Duke of Kent and five former Open champions, Arnold Palmer, Gene Sarazen, Roberto de Vicenzo, Kel Nagle and Peter Thomson.

The former Walker Cup golfer, Dr David Marsh, has been nominated as the new captain of the Royal and Ancient.

Dr Marsh, aged 56, twice

played for Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup and won the English Amateur Championship in 1964 and 1970. He was president of the English Golf Union in 1988.

He will officially install himself when he drives off the first ball during the R and A autumn medal meeting in St Andrews.

### Coaches unhappy about Christmas in Perth

away from home at Christmas.

Paul Bush, who works with Denison on the Leeds development scheme, has been made manager for Perth and the European Cup, to be held in August. Bob Pay, of Harrow, takes Denison's place in Perth, though Denison, coach to Adrian Moorhouse, will lead the team for Rome.

The event will be held in the first week of January in Perth, Australia, requiring the squad to leave on December 21. The situation has made it difficult for the Australian Swimming Association to find coaching staff, who will need to take a month off work and be

away from home at Christmas.

Pat Bush, who works with Denison on the Leeds development scheme, has been made manager for Perth and the European Cup, to be held in August. Bob Pay, of Harrow, takes Denison's place in Perth, though Denison, coach to Adrian Moorhouse, will lead the team for Rome.

Pay will be the only British coach at Perth to have experience of coaching at training camps for significant international events.

#### TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

##### FOOTBALL

###### Barclays League

###### Second division

###### Otcham v Wolverhampton

###### Third division

###### Reading v Notts Co (8.0)

###### GM Vauxhall Conference

###### Fisher v Barrow

###### Wyncote v Bradford

###### HFS LOANS LEAGUE: President's Cup

###### Final: Witton v Fleetwood

###### PENINSULAR CHAMPIONSHIP: First division

###### BERNTHORPE v Bishop Auckland

### OTHER SPORT

#### CYCLING: Scottish Provost Series

##### (Belliss)

###### EQUESTRIAN: Badminton Horse Trials

###### GYMNASIUM: National League

###### NETBALL: National League

###### SWIMMING: Hi-Tec Sport

###### SYNTHETIC: Swimming

###### TABLE TENNIS: Scottish Open

###### TALENT: National League

###### TRANS WORLD SPORT: European

### SPORT ON TV

#### AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL: Melbourne (10pm)

##### BADMINTON: Screenport 4-30pm

###### BASKETBALL: Screenport 8pm

###### BILLIARD: Screenport 7pm

###### BOXING: Eurosport 8pm

###### CRICKET: Eurosport 8pm

###### GYMNASIUM: Eurosport 8pm

###### GYMNASIUM: Eurosport 8pm

# Salsabil has hallmark of quality

By Mandarin  
(Michael Phillips)

Following her runaway victory 13 days ago in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury, Salsabil is napped to win the General Accident 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket today.

One would have liked Dead Certain and Chimes of Freedom, both high-class two-year-olds, to have run better so the form would stand up under scrutiny, but it would be churlish to fault Salsabil for that. She herself could hardly have done better on her seasonal debut.

However, we did not have to wait long for her form of last year to be boosted as two days later Household, whom she beat by two lengths in the Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp last autumn, won the Prix de la Grotte on the same track.

Salsabil's only defeat was at Newbury last September when she was beaten a short head by

Free At Last, one of her opponents today. Making excuses for beaten horses can prove costly, but trainer John Dunlop, who won the 1,000 Guineas 10 years ago with Quick As Lightning, believes the race went against her as she had to make all the running.

Since then his judgement has been vindicated not once but twice because the way that she quickened after being held up at Longchamp last autumn and Newbury last month bore all the hallmarks of a high class race horse.

Negligent is the only other member of today's 10-strong field who has impressed me as much as Salsabil. She has not run this season, but that should not be held against her as her trainer Barry Hills has also won this classic with a filly running for the first time.

I admired Negligent when she won the Rockfel Stakes by five lengths on today's course



John Dunlop: trainer of Salsabil (Newmarket, 340)

last October in a faster time than Dashing Blanche took to win the Dewhurst half an hour later. First time out, Negligent ruined her chance of winning the Blue Seal Stakes at Ascot again, this time with Sanglamore, an easy Nottingham winner first time out.

Sanglamore can be the first leg of a double for Eddery, to

be completed by Cold Marble in the Madagans Handicap.

Along with Heart Of Joy and in the Groove, Hashash was involved in that three-way photo-finish for the Nell Gwyn Stakes just over a fortnight ago. I favour Heart Of Joy to come out on top once again.

Palace Street, who so nearly stole the fillies' trial at Kempton, finished a long way behind Salsabil at Longchamp, as did Lakeland Beauty at Newbury.

Henry Cecil will be hoping to take the May Stakes with Dress Parade, whose defeat at Newbury first time out proved rather expensive for some. As Quest For Fame, who beat him that day is trained by Roger Charlton, I find it significant that Charlton is not afraid to take Dress Parade on again, this time with Sanglamore, an easy Nottingham winner first time out.

The highly-regarded Sayara could prevent Model Village from bettering her Newbury second in the Portland Lodge Maiden Stakes.

## NEWMARKET

### Selections

By Mandarin  
2.00 Sanglamore.  
2.30 Macrobian.  
3.00 Sardegna.  
3.40 SALSABIL (nap).  
4.15 Cold Marble.  
4.45 Stapleford Manor.  
5.15 Sayara.

By Michael Seely  
2.00 Dress Parade. 3.40 SALSABIL (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 SALSABIL

### Going: good to firm (watering)

### Draw: no advantage

2.0 MAY STAKES (3-Y-O; £7,375; 1m 2f) (7 runners)

101 (5) 2-1 SANGLAMORE 17 (D.F.G.) (H Al-Maktoum) R Charlton 8-12 Pat Eddery 98

102 (1) 0-0 ARBOR VITAE 15 (Kl-Al-Sad) D Elmorth 8-10 M Roberts 95

104 (2) 2-1 DRESS PARADE 13 (Kl-Al-Sad) H Charlton 8-10 S Carson 98

105 (5) 3-2 EMPORER FOUNTAIN 15 (Duke of Devonshire) J Toller 8-10 G Doffield 98

107 (7) 0-0 RAINBOW STRIDES 16 (J Stretton) R Guest 8-10 W R Swinburne 98

BETTING: 10-11 Dress Parade, 5-2 Sanglamore, 7-1 Emporer Fountain, 10-1 Anwar, 14-1 others.

1985: N O'Brien 8-10 R Coombes (20-1) L Cuniman 11 ran.

**FORM FOCUS** SANGLAMORE best appearance at Nottingham (11m, good) on last season's 3rd to 17 to Lever's Moon on only start in a maiden at Leicester (1m, good to firm). EMPEROR FOUNTAIN encouraging 2nd to Great Heights on debut in Newmarket maiden (1m 2f, good), ANWAR 7th and RAINBOW STRIDES 1st.

2.30 MCCARTHY INFORMATION HANDICAP (£7,765; 6f) (18 runners)

201 (18) 02164-5 AWFAJ 17 (D.F.G.) (H Al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 4-10-0 M Carson 98

202 (17) 04020-2 AJANAC 223 (D.L.G.) (Beckingham Stables Ltd) P Charlton 6-13 M Carson 98

203 (5) 12029-6 SILCA BOUSSAC 15 (Colf) (Alridge Racing Ltd) D Elmorth 4-12-5 S Caulfield 98

204 (16) 10322-1 MACROBIAN 187 (Colf,G.S.) (Miss E Macgregor) M H Eastby 6-8-3 M Birch 98

205 (14) 00020-6 RESTORE 40 (D.L.G.,S.) (Mrs P Atkinson) M Prescott 5-9-4 G Doffield 98

207 (11) 20053-4 PLAIN FAIR 15 (D.L.G.,S.) (Mrs P Atkinson) M Prescott 5-9-4 G Doffield 98

208 (11) 31111-4 PROFILIC 15 (D.L.G.,S.) (Mrs P Atkinson) M Prescott 5-9-4 G Doffield 98

209 (2) 01000-2 BRIGHTON CUP 15 (Colf,P.M.) (P. & G. Fletcher) M Fletcher 5-9-4 M Carson 98

210 (8) 01000-6 BURGESS CUP 15 (Colf,P.M.) (P. & G. Fletcher) M Fletcher 5-9-4 M Carson 98

210 (2) 03200-6 MONICA 27 (D.F.) (Mrs D Allen) I Gedling 8-7-7 J Williams 98

211 (10) 16000-9 LUMA BID 22 (D.F.G.,S.) (A Hall) M Blanchard 6-8-7 J Williams 98

212 (7) 2256-5 PROFILIC 15 (D.L.G.,S.) (J Goodman) J Wilson 5-8-8

213 (12) 06000-4 GRAND BLUSH 15 (Ecurie du Chene) J Metherell 6-8-7 J Williams 98

214 (4) 01200-5 BALFOUR'S BREEZE 15 (Colf) (M. & S. Deakin) M. & S. Deakin 6-8-7 J Williams 98

215 (3) 22581-1 ANTHONY LORETO 187 (D.J.K. (Stuntron Ltd) John Fletcher 5-8-1 R. Fox 98

217 (13) 00400-6 FOOLISH TOUCH 15 (D.L.G.,S.) (T. Wilson) M. & S. Deakin 6-8-7 J Williams 98

218 (6) 20020-1 FRIMLEY PARKSON 8 (B.P.G.) (Miss P. Bott) P Arthur 8-7-7 G Carter 98

Long headings: Frimley Parkon 7-5.

BETTING: 8-1 Sicas Supreme, 8-1 Alanc, Lunes 8-1 Bertie Wooster, 11-1 Avel, Macrobian, 12-1 Foulke Touch, Frimley Parkon, 14-1 Gerde, Flora, Fen Flots, Pretzel, Salomon Knight, 16-1 others.

1985: BERTIE WOOSTER 8-2 M-Ham (16-1) R. Holder 13 ran.

**FORM FOCUS** ALANC best on 10m, 1st to 10m, 2nd to 10m, 3rd to 10m, 4th to 10m, 5th to 10m, 6th to 10m, 7th to 10m, 8th to 10m, 9th to 10m, 10th to 10m, 11th to 10m, 12th to 10m, 13th to 10m, 14th to 10m, 15th to 10m, 16th to 10m, 17th to 10m, 18th to 10m, 19th to 10m, 20th to 10m, 21st to 10m, 22nd to 10m, 23rd to 10m, 24th to 10m, 25th to 10m, 26th to 10m, 27th to 10m, 28th to 10m, 29th to 10m, 30th to 10m, 31st to 10m, 32nd to 10m, 33rd to 10m, 34th to 10m, 35th to 10m, 36th to 10m, 37th to 10m, 38th to 10m, 39th to 10m, 40th to 10m, 41st to 10m, 42nd to 10m, 43rd to 10m, 44th to 10m, 45th to 10m, 46th to 10m, 47th to 10m, 48th to 10m, 49th to 10m, 50th to 10m, 51st to 10m, 52nd to 10m, 53rd to 10m, 54th to 10m, 55th to 10m, 56th to 10m, 57th to 10m, 58th to 10m, 59th to 10m, 60th to 10m, 61st to 10m, 62nd to 10m, 63rd to 10m, 64th to 10m, 65th to 10m, 66th to 10m, 67th to 10m, 68th to 10m, 69th to 10m, 70th to 10m, 71st to 10m, 72nd to 10m, 73rd to 10m, 74th to 10m, 75th to 10m, 76th to 10m, 77th to 10m, 78th to 10m, 79th to 10m, 80th to 10m, 81st to 10m, 82nd to 10m, 83rd to 10m, 84th to 10m, 85th to 10m, 86th to 10m, 87th to 10m, 88th to 10m, 89th to 10m, 90th to 10m, 91st to 10m, 92nd to 10m, 93rd to 10m, 94th to 10m, 95th to 10m, 96th to 10m, 97th to 10m, 98th to 10m, 99th to 10m, 100th to 10m, 101st to 10m, 102nd to 10m, 103rd to 10m, 104th to 10m, 105th to 10m, 106th to 10m, 107th to 10m, 108th to 10m, 109th to 10m, 110th to 10m, 111th to 10m, 112th to 10m, 113th to 10m, 114th to 10m, 115th to 10m, 116th to 10m, 117th to 10m, 118th to 10m, 119th to 10m, 120th to 10m, 121st to 10m, 122nd to 10m, 123rd to 10m, 124th to 10m, 125th to 10m, 126th to 10m, 127th to 10m, 128th to 10m, 129th to 10m, 130th to 10m, 131st to 10m, 132nd to 10m, 133rd to 10m, 134th to 10m, 135th to 10m, 136th to 10m, 137th to 10m, 138th to 10m, 139th to 10m, 140th to 10m, 141st to 10m, 142nd to 10m, 143rd to 10m, 144th to 10m, 145th to 10m, 146th to 10m, 147th to 10m, 148th to 10m, 149th to 10m, 150th to 10m, 151st to 10m, 152nd to 10m, 153rd to 10m, 154th to 10m, 155th to 10m, 156th to 10m, 157th to 10m, 158th to 10m, 159th to 10m, 160th to 10m, 161st to 10m, 162nd to 10m, 163rd to 10m, 164th to 10m, 165th to 10m, 166th to 10m, 167th to 10m, 168th to 10m, 169th to 10m, 170th to 10m, 171st to 10m, 172nd to 10m, 173rd to 10m, 174th to 10m, 175th to 10m, 176th to 10m, 177th to 10m, 178th to 10m, 179th to 10m, 180th to 10m, 181st to 10m, 182nd to 10m, 183rd to 10m, 184th to 10m, 185th to 10m, 186th to 10m, 187th to 10m, 188th to 10m, 189th to 10m, 190th to 10m, 191st to 10m, 192nd to 10m, 193rd to 10m, 194th to 10m, 195th to 10m, 196th to 10m, 197th to 10m, 198th to 10m, 199th to 10m, 200th to 10m, 201st to 10m, 202nd to 10m, 203rd to 10m, 204th to 10m, 205th to 10m, 206th to 10m, 207th to 10m, 208th to 10m, 209th to 10m, 210th to 10m, 211th to 10m, 212th to 10m, 213th to 10m, 214th to 10m, 215th to 10m, 216th to 10m, 217th to 10m, 218th to 10m, 219th to 10m, 220th to 10m, 221th to 10m, 222th to 10m, 223th to 10m, 224th to 10m, 225th to 10m, 226th to 10m, 227th to 10m, 228th to 10m, 229th to 10m, 230th to 10m, 231th to 10m, 232th to 10m, 233th to 10m, 234th to 10m, 235th to 10m, 236th to 10m, 237th to 10m, 238th to 10m, 239th to 10m, 240th to 10m, 241th to 10m, 242th to 10m, 243th to 10m, 244th to 10m, 245th to 10m, 246th to 10m, 247th to 10m, 248th to 10m, 249th to 10m, 250th to 10m, 251th to 10m, 252th to 10m, 253th to 10m, 254th to 10m, 255th to 10m, 256th to 10m, 257th to 10m, 258th to 10m, 259th to 10m, 260th to 10m, 261th to 10m, 262th to 10m, 263th to 10m, 264th to 10m, 265th to 10m, 266th to 10m, 267th to 10m, 268th to 10m, 269th to 10m, 270th to 10m, 271th to 10m, 272th to 10m, 273th to 10m, 274th to 10m, 275th to 10m, 276th to 10m, 277th to 10m, 278th to 10m, 279th to 10m, 280th to 10m, 281th to 10m, 282th to 10m, 283th to 10m, 284th to 10m, 285th to 10m, 286th to 10m, 287th to 10m, 288th to 10m, 289th to 10m, 290th to 10m, 291th to 10m, 292th to 10m, 293th to 10m, 294th to 10m, 295th to 10m, 296th to 10m, 297th to 10m, 298th to 10m, 299th to 10m, 300th to 10m, 301th to 10m, 302th to 10m, 303th to 10m, 304th to 10m, 305th to 10m, 306th to 10m, 307th to 10m, 308th to 10m, 309th to 10m, 310th to 10m, 311th to 10m, 312th to 10m, 313th to 10m, 314th to 10m, 315th to 10m, 316th to 10m, 317th to 10m, 318th to 10m, 319th to 10m, 320th to 10m, 321th to 10m, 322th to 10m, 323th to 10m, 324th to 10m, 325th to 10m, 326th to 10m, 327th to 10m, 328th to 10m, 329th to 10m, 330th to 10m, 331th to 10m, 332th to 10m, 333th to 10m, 334th to 10m, 335th to 10





# SPORT

THURSDAY MAY 3 1990

## Sasaki failure ruffles Derby betting market

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

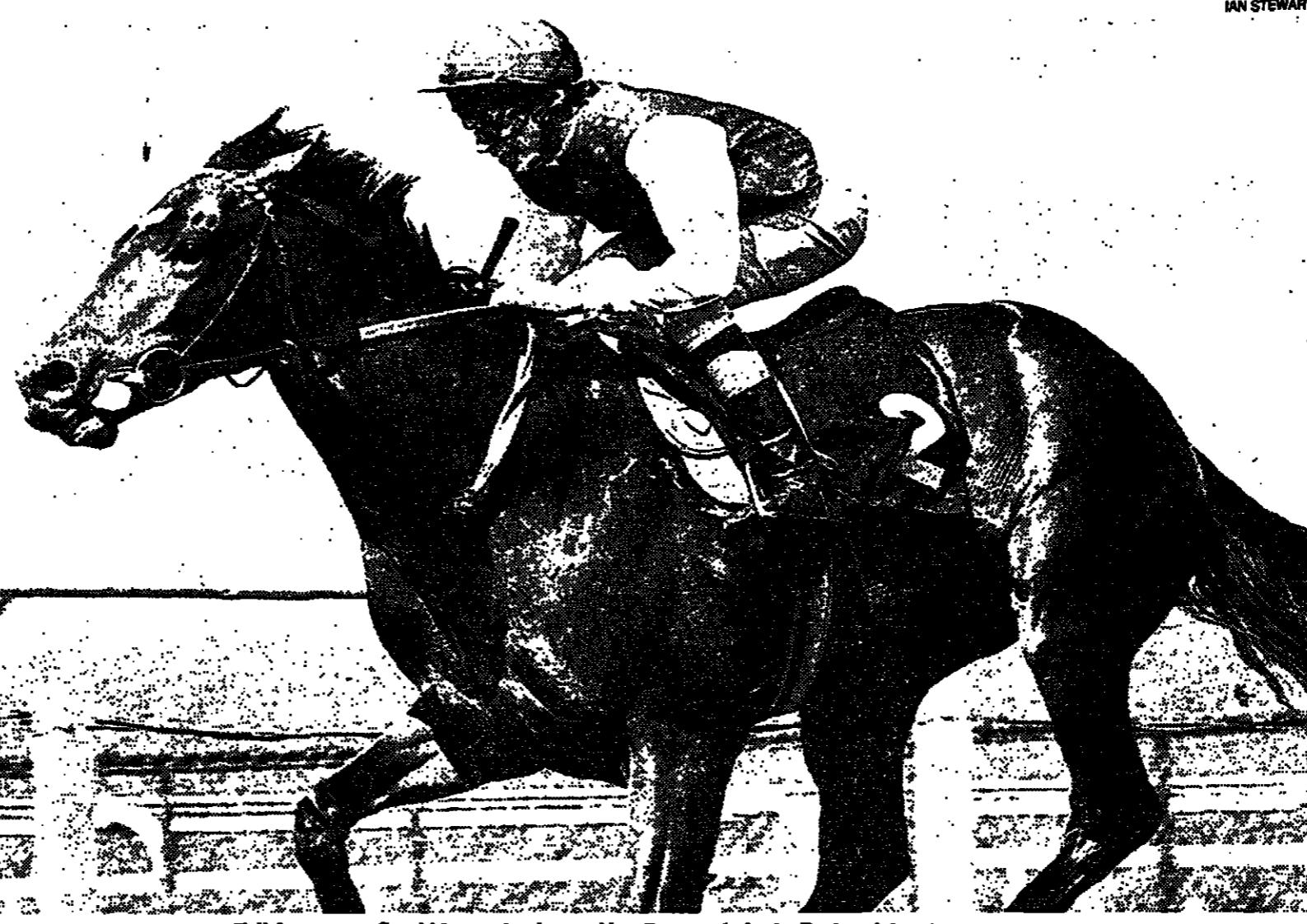
SASAKI'S short-lived reign as favourite for the Epsom Derby ended in ignominy at Ascot yesterday. The Michael Stoute-trained "dark horse" could finish only third of the five runners in the White Rose Stakes, beaten by a short head and eight lengths by Starstreak and Marquetry.

The bookmakers had no hesitation in removing Sasaki from the betting. Anthony Stroud, the racing manager for the colt's owner, Sheikh Mohammed: "Steve Cauthen said that the colt needed the race, but it was still very disappointing. Just on that performance you have to doubt whether he's a classic horse."

Starstreak, trained at Middleham by Mark Johnston, was not even entered for the Derby. "We thought it was a bit ambitious," Johnston said.

It has been a confused year for backers seeking the Derby winner. Bleu De France was embraced as a potential champion before falling at Longchamp last month, and now Sasaki has joined him on the list of former favourites.

More racing, page 40 and 41



Fall from grace: Sasaki beaten by the outsider, Starstreak, in the Derby trial at Ascot yesterday

## One-match cup ban for Milan

MILAN (AP) — AC Milan, whose season appears to be ending in disappointment, have been ordered to play the first home tie they receive in the Italian Cup next season on a neutral ground. Italy's football tribunal yesterday also banned Franco Baresi, the team captain and international player, for one round.

Last week Milan's Dutch midfield player, Frank Rijkaard, received a five-round suspension following the second leg of the cup final against Juventus when supporters hurled objects at the referee. Baresi was punished for rough play in the match, which Juventus won 1-0 to take the trophy on aggregate.

Milan, who are hoping to win a second consecutive European Cup in the final on May 23 against Benfica in Vienna, lost their Italian league championship to Naples at the weekend in addition to the cup final.

• BUCHAREST: Florin Raducioiu scored three goals in Dinamo Bucharest's 6-4 victory over Steaua Bucharest yesterday to win the Romanian Cup for the sixteenth time in 24 appearances in the final (AFP reports).

## League hope teams will not gain time advantage

By Ian Ross

The Football League yesterday admitted that it would have no say over the kick-off times of this weekend's three, crucial second division promotion fixtures.

"Safety is of paramount importance," Ian Cotton, the Football League's press officer, said. "If the officer who is in command on the day of the match thinks that the game should be delayed then the matter is in his hands alone."

The League's main concern is the game at Bournemouth's Dean Court ground. Leeds have been allocated only 2,000 of the 12,000 available tickets and the size of their support has caused problems over the past nine months.

## Coverage under threat

ROME (Reuter) — Italian television technicians are threatening to black out some of the World Cup football finals in Italy this summer by going on strike. But officials at the state-owned broadcasting company, RAI, played down the threat, saying more talks were planned with the technicians union over its de-

mands for higher pay.

Technicians want an average increase of around £150 a month plus a productivity bonus. RAI has offered to meet less than half the demand.

A strike could black out live international broadcasts of some of the 52 matches being played in 12 Italian cities

only 4,220.

The question of which two clubs will fill the division's two automatic promotion places will be decided on Saturday when Leeds United, Sheffield United and Newcastle United, complete their League programmes. All three are away from home: Leeds play at Bournemouth, Sheffield at Leicester City and Newcastle at Middlesbrough.

Although League officials are anxious that all three games should start at the

specified time of 3pm to avoid a situation where one club might gain an advantage by being made aware of other results, the kick-off times will, as is always the case, be decided by local police.

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Leeds and Sheffield United will be promoted if they win. If either were to slip up, Newcastle United could return to the first division after an absence of just 12 months by defeating Middlesbrough.

"The message is very simple: if you have a ticket, travel early and if you do not have a ticket, then do not travel at all," Cotton said.

Newcastle have been allocated just 1,000 tickets for the game at Ayresome Park, but it is expected that 20,000 people will assemble at St James's Park to watch the match live on giant television screens.

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